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Israeli jets raid S. Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Israeli jets raided positions of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal Wednesday northeast of this southern port city, security sources said. They said two warplanes protected by three others swooped low and dropped at least six bombs on the FRC positions 40 kilometres south of Beirut. There was no immediate report of casualties, but witnesses said clouds of smoke billowed over the area as ambulances and rescue teams rushed to the scene. They said flames lit the sky over the raided area. This was the first Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year. Israel launched 27 attacks against Lebanese and Palestinian positions last year, killing 96 people. At least 10 of those raids were aimed against the FRC.

Arab ministers gather in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Arab foreign ministers began to arrive in Tunis Wednesday for emergency Arab League sessions on the Libyan-U.S. dispute and the constitutional crisis in Lebanon. Libyan Foreign Minister Jeddallah Azouzi Al Tahri, whose country requested the first meeting after U.S. jets attacked two Libyan planes Jan. 4, discussed preparations Wednesday with Arab League Secretary General Chadli Khibi. Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hamid Al Sheikh returned from Paris and briefed President Zine Abidine Ben Ali on the conference on banning chemical weapons. Most of the Arab ministers attended the Paris conference and will be coming direct to Tunis for the two sessions Thursday. The league had originally arranged the meetings for Wednesday but postponed them for a day to give the ministers time to finish off their work in Paris. Arab diplomats say the session on Libya will give Tripoli a statement of solidarity but will not invoke the joint Arab Defence Pact on military assistance. On Lebanon, which has no president and two rival governments, the main proposal is to set up a group of up to five ministers to contact the rival Lebanese factions in preparation for new presidential elections. (see page 2)

Al Hussein, Rifai, Lawzi discuss peace prospects with European parliamentarians

King: Mideast needs no new plans but efforts to implement U.N. resolutions

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — There is no need for new initiatives to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict but there is need for positive response on the part of all concerned parties towards implementing United Nations resolutions on the issue so that the Palestinian problem could be resolved in all its aspects, His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

Parties to the conflict and world peace should not remain hostage to the will of a single party — Israel — which continues to reject international legitimacy as the basis for a just and fair solution to the conflict, the King told a delegation representing the European Parliament led by Speaker Lord Plumb.

The King said Israel should rise to the level of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and respond to the call of peace and accept U.N. conditions for peace.

Plumb and the delegation are currently on a tour of the region on a fact-finding mission aimed primarily at helping efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The delegation includes representatives of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

The King voiced optimism that in light of the new superpower détente, which helped resolve many regional conflicts with direct bearing on world peace and stability, the Middle East problem would also acquire due attention from Moscow and Washington, particularly that the region is abundant with devastating weapons and of real strategic importance to the world.

The King said the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories reflects the Palestinian people's determination to preserve their identity and defend dignity and freedom on their national soil. "It should be noted as well that both sides have extremist elements which do not wish to see peace and they continue to try by all means to undermine sincere peace efforts," the King said.

Peace in Gulf, Lebanon

The ceasefire between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war in the Gulf should be used to arrive at a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, the King said.

Commenting on the strife in Lebanon, the King said all possi-



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives a meeting attended by Upper House of Parliament European Parliament Speaker Lord Plumb in a Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi (right)

ble efforts should be exerted to restore that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity. Jordan has not been spared from international terrorism and the Kingdom is standing firm in the face of all forms of terrorism, the King said. He added that combating terrorism needs sincere international cooperation. The King paid tribute to the

European Economic Community's (EEC) role in the Middle East and said the community's efforts were essential for achieving peace in the region. Jordan is totally committed to close cooperation with Europe in the service of world peace and freedom.

In reply to the King's remarks, Plumb said the European Parlia-

ment had sincere respect and appreciation for His Majesty's stands. He voiced the European Parliament's solidarity with support for Jordan and King Hussein's efforts.

The current visit of the delegation, Plumb said, is designed to crystallise specific ideas which

(Continued on page 3)

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday meets a delegation representing the Council of Europe (Petra photo)

Rifai, Lawzi review Mideast with Council of Europe delegation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai held talks Wednesday on the latest political developments in the Middle East with a visiting delegation representing the Council of Europe.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Rifai and the delegation headed by Miguel Angel Martinez, leader of the Spanish group in the Council of Europe, also reviewed means to boost cooperation in various fields between Jordan and the European Economic Community (EEC).

Earlier, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi received the delegation, which arrived here from Cairo. Lawzi briefed the delegation on Jordan's efforts for a peaceful, fair and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict. He also reviewed the latest developments in the region and pointed out that Israel remained intransigent and adamant in its rejection of international legitimacy and peace initiatives despite peace overtures by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has accepted U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and renounced terrorism.

The call by His Majesty King

Hussein for an international peace conference on the Middle East stems from Jordan's faith in the international will and legitimacy, coupled with guarantees undertaken by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Lawzi said.

In reply, Martinez said the delegation's visit to Jordan was to assess the situation in the Middle East and gain first-hand information on prospects for peace in the region as well as on how Europe could play a role in endeavours for a just and fair settlement to the conflict.

Lawzi and the delegation also reviewed dimensions of Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the occupied West Bank, the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and their impact on efforts for peace.

Several members of the Upper House of Parliament attended the meeting.

The visiting delegation includes parliamentarians from Spain, France, Britain, Italy, Greece, Holland, Turkey, Portugal, and West Germany.

In an interview with Petra, Martinez lauded Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 3)

World pledges to outlaw chemical weapons

PARIS (Agencies) — The world community pledged Wednesday to outlaw all chemical weapons and to rapidly sign a convention enforcing the ban.

More than 140 countries ended a five-day conference with a declaration to eliminate chemical weapons.

The chairman of the declaration's drafting committee, Kalevi Sorsa of Finland, summarised the six-part declaration.

The declaration reaffirmed the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. It called for stepped-up negotiations in Geneva to ban the development, production, storage and use of chemical

arms. It also urged strengthened powers for U.N. secretaries-general to investigate chemical weapons use.

Sorsa said the declaration illustrates "the common will of nations to condemn chemical weapons."

"This will has prevailed... in the preparation of the final text," he said. Preparing the text "required concessions and compromises from all sides."

"From here on we can refer back to the Paris conference and its text."

The 600-word statement, forged during long hours of haggling by negotiators, is expected to give powerful impetus to the conference on disarmament in Geneva which is drawing up a binding convention banning the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

Adoption of the text was briefly delayed at the conference's closing session when Romanian and Syrian delegates took the floor. Both undermined the view, most strongly advocated by Arab states, that chemical disarmament could not be separated from nuclear disarmament.

But French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, presiding at the session, made clear that both speakers had expressed their support for the final declaration.

Arab delegates "tried to draw attention to the particular situation in our region," Aziz said at a news conference.

"Where there is one country that has nuclear weapons and that country that has mass destruction weapons is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty... and has refused to reach peace... that nation constitutes a real threat to the peace and security of the region," Aziz said.

Arab countries had wanted the final declaration to link nuclear disarmament to chemical disarmament. The Arab position was that so long as Israel maintained a nuclear force, the Arab states needed to

have chemical arms. Including the word "nuclear" in the final document became the main obstacle in a final declaration.

The final document that was receiving a last reading by foreign ministers Wednesday morning did not include the word nuclear, but refers to "general and complete disarmament."

"I read the final draft," Aziz said. "And that draft falls short of our concerns. It refers to matters in generalities but it doesn't highlight the matter as we would want it highlighted."

"This conference is not the end of things," he said, adding that Arab states would press the matter at ongoing negotiations on a chemical weapons ban in

Geneva. Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz of Iraq said he and other Arab delegates finally decided not to take a position that would prevent the success of the conference.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the only countries which admit possessing chemical weapons, fought to include a tough statement on the proliferation of poison gases. Both say about 20 countries now have stocks.

But they gave ground in the face of Third World complaints that the non-proliferation drive was simply a way of keeping developing nations deprived of high technology.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Mahdi plans broad-based government

KHARTOUM (AP) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has agreed to a former coalition partner's demand for a broadly based government drawn from all political parties and Sudan's powerful trade and professional unions, a newspaper said Wednesday. Quoting a high-level source in Mahdi's Umma Party, the newspaper Al Khartoum reported the decision was taken at a party meeting Monday and that the party has begun political contacts to forge a compromise formula on the matter.

Tunisian elections brought forward

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia will hold parliamentary and presidential elections April 2 instead of April 9, a government official said Wednesday. President Zine Abidine Ben Ali announced the April 9 date in a Nov. 7 speech but officials later realised this would fall within the fasting month of Ramadan. The presidential elections will be the first since 1974 when former President Habib Bourguiba stood unopposed for a fourth successive term. In 1975 the Chamber of Deputies (parliament) made him president for life. Ben Ali is likely to be the only serious candidate this year though some small opposition groups have spoken of putting up their own candidates to challenge him.

Austrian chancellor arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky arrived Wednesday on a five-day visit during which he is to meet with President Hosni Mubarak, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said. He was greeted at Cairo international airport by Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other high-ranking Egyptian officials.

Turkey raps Greek Cypriots

ANKARA (R) — Turkey criticised the Greek-Cypriot side Wednesday over its position in talks on the island's reunification. "The Greek-Cypriot stand to exclude from the minutes of the meeting two new papers presented by the Turkish side and their objection to disclosing them in the Cypriot National Council are negative developments," Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. "They create anxiety over the intentions of the Greek-Cypriot side," he said.

Sudan's judges return to work

KHARTOUM (R) — Striking Sudanese judges withdrew their resignations and returned to their benches Wednesday after winning a high-level hearing of their complaints, the official news agency SUNA reported. Their eight-day walk-out was sparked by a proposal from a ministerial committee that judges' salaries be cut. The judges are also unhappy about what they say is government interference in court affairs and arrests of provincial judges, especially in the south.

U.N. chief gets Paine Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was awarded the \$16,000 Olaf Palme Prize for Public Service Tuesday, and said he would use the money for a scholarship for peacekeepers. Perez de Cuellar accepted the award from Lisbet Palme, widow of the U.N. mediator and four-term Swedish prime minister who was shot dead nearly three years ago.

Arafat says high-level PLO-U.S. talks needed

ATHENS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said Wednesday that further and higher level discussions with the U.S. were needed to establish peace in the Middle East.

"One meeting is not enough to reach a conclusion. But we hope to take practical steps in order to establish a comprehensive peace," Arafat said at a news conference finishing up his 24-hour visit to Greece.

Arafat said the meeting between the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia and a PLO official in Tunis last month "was good but higher level contacts were needed."

Arafat expressed hope for an international Middle East conference including the PLO and Israel under the auspices of the United Nations in order to bring peace to the region.



Yasser Arafat

Arafat refrained from naming any countries which offered to recognise the Palestinian state. But he was optimistic that the EEC Committee for Palestinian Affairs would produce a new, practical initiative "suitable to deal with the new conditions."

PLO: Shift in Shamir's stand is progress but not enough

TUNIS (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Wednesday Israel had moved in the right direction on Middle East peace talks but the policy change fell short of PLO expectations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in a speech to European parliamentarians Tuesday that the United Nations or the superpowers could sponsor peace negotiations provided they refrained from involvement in the substance.

The official, who declined to be named, described the statement as an important change. "Unfortunately he doesn't say talks with whom, he doesn't say with the PLO," he added.

The PLO would need the United Nations to play an active role as guarantor of any settlement, he added.

The PLO position is that a Middle East peace settlement should come out of an international conference held under U.N. auspices and with the PLO taking part on an equal footing.

Shamir's aides Wednesday played down his offer to accept a U.N. role in peace talks.

Right-wing Jewish leaders voiced alarm and warned Shamir against any "concession" that would lead to giving up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir told a European parliament delegation Tuesday: "Such negotiations can be launched under the auspices of the great powers or the United Nations, providing they refrain from any involvement in the substance of the talks."

The right-wing premier's media adviser, Avi Pazner, insisted Shamir still rejected a U.N.-spon-

5 protesters wounded in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians in clashes in the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Nuseirat and Khan Yunis and the West Bank village of 'Ain Ahush. Among the wounded was a 12-year-old shot in the left thigh.

Two others, shot earlier in week, were in critical condition in Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital, officials said.

A senior general has resigned his commission with complaints that Israeli efforts to put down the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories could damage the moral fiber of army soldiers, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Questions about the army's role in the occupied territories are increasingly being debated in Israel, with chief of staff Dan Shomron also quoted Wednesday as saying that troops could never quell the rebellion because it is a political struggle.

Also Wednesday, Israeli newspapers said the army had indicted three Palestinians for murder on charges of throwing three firebombs at an Israeli passenger bus Oct. 30 in Jericho.

Five Israelis including one soldier died in the attack. The Palestinians were identified as in their early 20s.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers have called an unprecedented strike Thursday to protest against Palestinian demonstrations and anti-occupation activities. Dozens of settlers have been injured by petrol bombs and rocks thrown by Palestinians during the 13-month-old uprising.

On Tuesday, Israeli troops shot and wounded 10 Palestinians — two critically — during protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

Hospital officials said troops also shot dead Idna village resident Kaed Tumeizeh, 27. Monday night and pushed a 16-year-old Palestinian onto a burning tyre, causing third degree burns.

Witnesses told Reuters a teenage boy shot Tuesday was leaving his house and nowhere near a demonstration when he was shot. Hospital officials said a sixth Palestinian was shot in the back

during the Gaza Strip protests and identified him as a Sha'ti resident.

In the West Bank, troops clashing with stone-throwing residents shot and wounded four protesters in Tulkarem and Al Amari camps, including an eight-year-old girl who was shot in the hand, the army said.

Amal, Hizbollah fight amid intense mediation

KFAR FILA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Amal militiamen launched hit-and-run attacks through driving rain and fog Wednesday while waiting for the weather to allow a full assault on their Hizbollah rivals in South Lebanon.

"The battle will only end when we clean the area from Hizbollah. We are waiting for the weather to improve to launch a new attack," said Fida, an Amal official.

At least 115 people have died in 12 days of bitter fighting between Amal and Hizbollah — the Iranian-backed Party of God — as they struggle for control of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites.

Independent security sources said the fighting in the mountainous Iqlim Al Tufah area had killed 60 people — 32 Amal militiamen, 21 Hizbollah fighters and seven civilians — and wounded 67 since Saturday.

The sources expected the toll to rise but said fighting was hampering rescue work. Haggard-looking Amal militiamen said they seized 80 per cent of the small town of Jubah on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

They said 30 fighters were battling Hizbollah militants entrenched at the eastern end of the town linking them to 'Ain Bus-

nah. The last Hizbollah position in the area.

Two-thirds of Jubah's 6,000 population have fled. Syria and Iran are trying to end the fighting, with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati meeting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Tuesday to discuss the issue before going to Lebanon.

Iran's IRNA news agency said an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Ministry official Mahmoud Hashemi was already in Lebanon, where Hashemi had met the head of the supreme Shi'a council, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine.

Hizbollah is the parent organisation for pro-Iranian factions who holding most of the 15 Western hostages, including nine Americans, kidnapped in Lebanon.

"Hizbollah kidnaps, Iran profits and the Shi'ites of Lebanon harvest the loss," read a slogan daubed on walls of Kfar Fila.

Amal and Hizbollah gunmen clashed briefly in west Beirut's Bourj Ahu Haidar district Wednesday before Syrian troops intervened.

Atef Aoun, one of the Amal militia's senior officials in the south, declared in a statement: "There is no room for negotiations with the Iranian delegates."

Afghan rebels reject Soviet stand, vows to continue fighting

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels dismissed Wednesday as another threat Moscow's warning that it might keep its troops in Afghanistan beyond the Feb. 15 deadline, and vowed to fight on.

"It is not possible that we surrender to this super power," guerrilla alliance leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said in a speech. Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov said in Moscow Tuesday his country might not meet the deadline, to which it committed itself in U.N.-mediated Geneva accords last April.

President Reagan said in Washington the United States expected Moscow to complete the troop withdrawal by the deadline despite suggestions that it may not be able to do so. Mojaddidi, speaking at the Pakistan Institute of Strategic Studies, said Vorontsov had been making threats in his talks with guerrilla delegations in Saudi Arabia last month and in Islamabad last week.

"It is also a threat," he said of Vorontsov's statement, made at a news conference on his return from the talks.

"Whether they delay (the troop pullout) or not, we will continue our struggle," the guerrilla leader added.



Najibullah — focus of conflict

Mojaddidi heads the main Pakistani-based seven-party alliance fighting the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The alliance said two days ago it would not hold further talks with Moscow on a future Afghan government until the withdrawal

of all Soviet troops and the fall of the PDPA government.

Mojaddidi, whose alliance wants Moscow to stop backing the Kabul government, said: "We have offered them conditions. If they accept these conditions, we are ready to talk to them again."

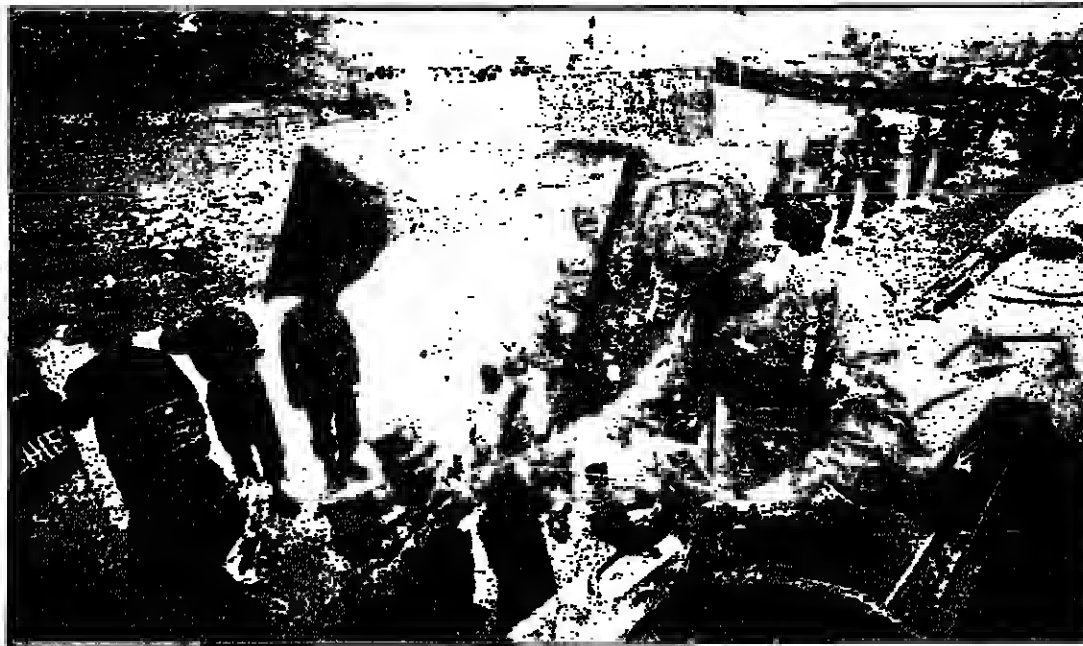
The guerrillas rejected a unilateral ceasefire declared by Najibullah Jan. 1 as well as a Soviet proposal that the PDPA have a part in the future broad-based government.

Mojaddidi said the guerrillas would have talked to the PDPA government if it had been independent. "But they are a puppet regime of the Russians and we are talking to the Russians."

He said the guerrillas could offer no concession to the PDPA except an amnesty for its members if they surrendered.

Moscow has withdrawn half of its more than 100,000 troops in Afghanistan under the Geneva accords aimed at ending the 10-year-old war and should complete the pullout by Feb. 15.

Vorontsov told the news conference it was too early to talk about a withdrawal schedule, adding: "Circumstances could arise under which the Soviet Union will be unable to do what we have, in principle, decided to do."



A scene from the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan that began in May 1987. The Soviet Union hinted Tuesday that it might not meet the Feb. 15 deadline to complete the withdrawal (Sygma photo)

Syria backs proposal for Arab contact group on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara was quoted Wednesday as saying his country supported proposals for a ministerial contact group on Lebanon's constitutional crisis.

"Syria supports an Arab committee to make contact and listen to all Lebanese groups in order to achieve reconciliation based on political reform," the independent Al Nahar newspaper quoted Sharara as telling its correspondent in Paris Tuesday.

The idea has been circulating in advance of a Arab League meeting in Tunis, which has been postponed until Thursday to give ministers time to arrive from an international conference on chemical weapons in Paris.

Lebanon has not had a president since Amin Gemayel ended his term in September without a successor being elected.

The Tunis meeting was postponed because most of the Arab foreign ministers were still in Paris attending the international conference on chemical arms, where Arab states want to link the banning of chemical weapons to that of nuclear arms.

The visit of Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kliti to Spain, scheduled for Thursday, also was postponed 24 hours.



Farouq Sharara

Arab League spokesman Mohammad Maghrebi said the first session, on Libya, would start Thursday morning instead of Wednesday afternoon and the ministers would then go straight on to discussing Lebanon at a technically separate session.

In the debate on Lebanon, the ministers will have to decide whether to include Syria or Iraq or both on the proposed ministerial contact group, Arab diplomats said Tuesday.

The contact group, which could include up to five Arab foreign ministers, would have the task of getting in touch with all the parties in Lebanon's internal conflict in the hope of paving the way for presidential elections.

It is the only practical proposal the Arab League Council is likely to discuss, though the Arab ministers may bring new ideas from Paris, the diplomats said.

The meeting on Libya was demanded by Tripoli immediately after the destruction of two Libyan jets Jan. 4 by fighters from a U.S. carrier in the Mediterranean. The United States says its patrol planes were attacked.

The meeting on Lebanon was sought by Sudan to discuss Lebanon's institutional crisis.

However, Lebanon will not be represented at the meeting, a source at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Two feuding Lebanese cabinets, one military and one civilian, have failed to agree on a unified delegation to represent Lebanon at the Tunis parley, said the Foreign Ministry source.

"Unfortunately no agreement could be reached on a Lebanese representation although the Lebanon crisis is on the Arab League's agenda," the source said.

Rajavi lists 1,107 executed

AMMAN (I.T.) — The main Iranian dissident group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, has named 1,107 political prisoners it said had been executed by Iran since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

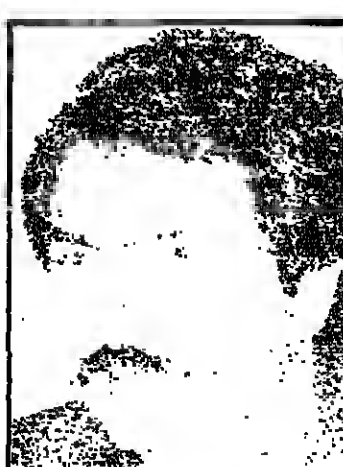
In a cable to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and telefaxed to the Jordan Times, Mujahadeen leader Masoud Rajavi said:

"The shocking figure is only a portion of at least 12,000 political executions which have been carried out throughout Iran in the past five months."

Rajavi quoted eyewitness reports from Iran as saying: "A great number of political prisoners have been massacred in recent weeks with the use of poisonous gases."

Rajavi emphasised in his telegram: "The Khomeini regime has undoubtedly entered the final stage of its medieval rule since it has swallowed the 'poison' of a ceasefire. The regime has now placed the physical extermination of political prisoners on its agenda."

Rajavi pointed to examples of the Khomeini regime's "crimes" such as incinerating the bodies of execution victims in order to destroy criminal evidence such as torture marks on prisoners' bodies.



Masoud Rajavi

"Numerous prisons can be named where all political prisoners have been executed, among them Dizelabad prison in Kermanshah, Vakilabad prison in Mashhad, and prisons in Gachsaran, Khorramabad, Kerman, and Masjid Soleiman," he said.

He urged the U.N. secretary general to take "effective, urgent steps" and requested that he send a U.N. mission to Iran.

Rajavi added: "With the existence of such an extraordinary amount of documents, witnesses

and evidence, the Iranian people and resistance's request is a wholly justified and undeniable demand. Khomeini should not be permitted to brazenly ridicule world public opinion and the General Assembly of the United Nations, which has condemned the grave violation of human rights in Iran by four consecutive years, by silencing its criminal acts. Do it such a regime warrant a seat in the United Nations?"

In an announcement, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said a former member of the Iranian parliament has applied in Tehran for permission to carry out political activity under the name Mujahadeen-e-Khalq. It called the group "the leader of the Islamic revolution."

The government in Tehran has announced it is to relax political controls. It said groups have been asked to operate.

The spokesman of the Iranian parliament, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said last month that human rights but punish members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq's National Liberation Army captured in a battle into Iran in July.

Israeli group calls for closure of Dhahiriya detention centre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Civil Rights Association of Israel Tuesday appealed to the supreme court for closure of a military detention centre in the occupied territories, saying Palestinians were kept in inhumane conditions, Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian lawyers who visited another military prison in the Nageh Desert said they were told of violent protests in the prison after a sick inmate was refused treatment.

The civil rights group's petition asked the court to order the army to close the detention centre in the village of Dhahiriya, 25 kilometres southwest of Hebron, the radio report said.

It said lawyers who visited the facility found conditions to be "shocking."

The petition, filed on behalf of four inmates, said one of them was in a cell 20 metres square

with between 20 and 30 other Palestinian prisoners.

The group told Israel Radio the cell had almost no ventilation and no sunlight. The inmates were provided with a basket instead of a toilet, and the cell stank, the lawyers' group was quoted as saying.

There were no figures available on how many Palestinians were being held at the centre.

The number of detainees has sharply increased since Palestinians launched the uprising in December 1987.

The army says it has more than 5,500 Palestinians in detention, including more than 1,500 held under "emergency regulations" without charges or trial.

The lawyers from Bethlehem who visited the Ketzioz prison in Israel said Tuesday that inmates told them the protests broke out Sunday night after prison guards refused medical care to a sick

man.

An army spokesman confirmed the protests and said an army officer and a Palestinian inmate were lightly injured.

Mary Rock, one of the attorneys, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview: "There was a sick man, very ill, who needed medical care. No one cared for him, and this made the prisoners very angry."

She said that protests to support the sick prisoner broke out in a section of the prison reserved for Gaza Strip residents and that guards fired teargas and rubber bullets to quell the protests.

Inmates in sections for West Bank prisoners heard the commotion and also began shouting. They, too, were met with teargas, she said.

Ziad Jasser, the other lawyer, said prisoners throughout the facility went on a half-day hunger strike to protest the incident.

Reagan insists downing of Libyan jets was 'self-defence'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan Tuesday denied a published report that U.S. navy jets may have fired prematurely in shooting down two Libyan MiG-23 fighters over the Mediterranean last Wednesday.

"All the evidence and everything that we have — photographic, sound, everything — (shows that) they (the U.S. pilots) were justified in what they were doing," Reagan said.

The U.S. leader, questioned by reporters about last week's incident over the Mediterranean at the start of a meeting with Honduran President Jose Azcona, said the American airmen could not afford to wait longer than they did before firing.

"Remember, we're not dealing with an earlier day with machine guns and close contact," he said.

"Today, if a plane persists in keeping you in line... you have to assume it's getting ready to push a button."

Reagan's comments echoed those of Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who also termed the pilots' actions "self-defence."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, asked about the report in the Washington Post, said: "The yellow warning indicates that pilots can take defensive action to defend themselves."

The fact is that under the yellow caution, they have the right to defend themselves and to fire, and they did."

Defence Department spokesman Dan Howard echoed Fitzwater's comments, saying, that the "warning yellow, weapons hold" command issued by the airborne warfare commander was intended to tell all of the pilots "to be careful; that there was probability of hostilities, and that they could shoot in self defence."

In another U.S.-Libyan row, an American diplomatic campaign has made a disputed Libyan facility less likely to go into operation, produce chemical weapons and require American military intervention, according to a senior U.S. official.

Because of the U.S. effort, "the world spotlight is focused on it (the Libyan facility) and it would seem more difficult for Western companies to step forward and become involved in it," the official told Reuters.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Children programmes
15:45 The Living Ocean
17:30 Local programme
18:00 News summary
18:10 World Report
18:20 Local programme
18:30 "Alph"
19:15 Health series
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Programme on the Press
20:45 Local series
21:45 Programme review
21:55 Programme on Islamic art
22:40 Arabic film
23:10 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Film (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
18:30 Des Chiffres et de
19:00 News in French
19:15 La vie en Panne
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast

22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Act of Vengeance"

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:43 Dhuhr
14:31 'Asr
15:30 Maghreb
18:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

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De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
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St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625443.

811295. Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Frost is expected to form in the early morning in the desert and southern areas. Clouds appear at different altitudes and gradual increase in temperature is expected. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 6/17
Aqaba 7/16
Deserts 0/11
Jordan Valley 6/17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 14. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 64 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615498
Dr. Mohammad Abu Makhoul 783344
Dr. Youssef Smeirai 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663522
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625872
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Isam Al Saleh 1-
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Al Safarini (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62290093
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 63690091
Public Security Department

656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605870
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality
Complaints 121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 0312
Overseas Calls 623101
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442016
Al-Jalil Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahbas, J. Amman 6644714
Palestine, Shmeisani 6644714
Shmeisani Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 666722/849
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/12

6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6624050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986752
IBBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haysa Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in fils per kg.
Apple 350 / 300
Banana 300 / 250
Beans 150 / 400
Broad beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 140 / 100
Carrots 200 / 150
Cauliflower 230 / 200
Cucumbers 600 / 500
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant (large) 120 / 80
Eggplant (small) 170 / 120
Garlic 240 / 200

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:15 Children programme
10:45 News in Arabic
11:20 Friday's prayer
12:30 Religious programme
13:00 Religious programme
13:30 Sports programme
14:50 The world around us
16:10 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:43 Dhuhr
14:31 'Asr
15:30 Maghreb
18:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 625785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 771331.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625303, Tel. 625443.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625443.

Remissions to over 900 prisoners in Morocco

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has remitted the sentences of 985 prisoners to mark a national anniversary Wednesday, the Justice Ministry said. The ministry did not say who would benefit. In previous royal clemency cases they have been criminals. Two Moroccan human rights groups appealed in December for a general amnesty for political prisoners. Opposition parties put the number of such detainees at between 25 and 300. Wednesday is the 45th anniversary of the publication of the "Independence Manifesto" by nationalists of the Istiqlal Party during the French and Spanish protectorates.

Egyptian court rejects editor's request

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court Tuesday rejected an editor's request to reopen a cultural and scientific club that was shut down by the government after its newspaper published an editorial critical of Saudi Arabia. The Cairo court ruled that the club, through its newspaper, had catered into political activities counter to its charter, the Middle East News Agency reported. The government in August disbanded the Friends of the Arab Media Club, which sponsored the Nasserite weekly Sawt Al Arab, after it attacked Saudi Arabia's government in an editorial.

Mossad head to be replaced

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's super-secret Mossad intelligence agency is to be replaced within several days after spending more than six years in the post, Israel Radio reported Tuesday. It said that the agent, whose name was not given in keeping with "security" regulations, was the first Mossad official ever appointed to head the service. The outgoing head of Mossad is to be replaced either by another senior Mossad official or by a "senior personality from outside that organisation," the radio reported. It said that during his years in service the intelligence agency suffered some failures, among them the discovery of false passports used by Mossad operatives in West Germany and the expulsion of Mossad agents from Britain several months ago.

Message from Oman
News summary in Arabic
News in French
Documentary
News in Hebrew
News in Arabic
Tain Al
News in English
Falcon Crest
Three's Company

PROGRAMME TWO

17:15 Children cartoons
17:30 French feature film
18:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Tain Al
21:10 News in English
22:30 Falcon Crest
23:10 Three's Company

Price of chicken raised to 820 fils

AMMAN (J.T.) — The price of chicken has gone up by 80 fils a kilogramme in view of the high cost of feed concentrates and veterinary medicine involved in poultry production in the Kingdom, according to an official announcement by Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh.

The minister's statement said that poultry (chicken) meat will be sold from now on at the rate of 820 fils per kilogramme at all stores, up from 740 fils.

It also said that a kilogramme of live chicken bought from stores that slaughter chicken will cost 680 fils up from 600 fils.

The statement made it clear that the increase in prices was decided on upon a recommendation from a committee set up to study the poultry situation. This committee, grouped representatives of the ministries of Supply, Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

The last hike in the price of poultry was in 1981, and according to the statement, the rise in the price was inevitable.

The increase in the price of poultry meat followed a period that witnessed a chronic shortage of poultry meat on the local market.

As the short supply of poultry meat was reported, a spokesman for the Ministry of Supply said that only 1,000 chickens were slaughtered at the Amman municipality's slaughter house every day, compared to an average of 22,000 heads of chicken before the crisis.



LAWZI RECEIVES PLUMB: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday receives the speaker of European Parliament, Sir Henry Plumb and his

accompanying delegation at the parliament building in Amman (see story on page one) (Petra photo)

Soviets to buy first consignment of Jordanian phosphates in 1989

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Soviet Union will import its first consignment of Jordanian phosphate during 1989 in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides in Moscow last month. This was announced here following a meeting between Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk during which they reviewed cooperation in a number of fields and developments in the Middle East region, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said the two sides agreed at the meeting that a Soviet technical committee should visit Jordan during January to pave the way for a joint Jordanian-Soviet ministerial committee meeting that will convene in Moscow in March.

Jordan and the Soviet Union last month concluded an agreement on trade to be conducted on equitable basis and in a manner that would achieve a balance in trade and increase the volume of exchanged products.

Jordan at present imports Soviet iron ore, timber, paper, equipment and chemicals, and through the December agreement the Kingdom hopes to sell the Soviets phosphate along with other national products.

The agreement in Moscow was concluded during a week-long visit there by an economic delegation led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf following the formation last year of a joint committee to look into ways of promoting trade and economic cooperation.

Saqqaf said upon returning to Amman that the Soviets had expressed desire to purchase 40 types of Jordanian products including toothpaste, tissue paper, cosmetics, woollen cloth, cotton material, socks, gas range, nylon bags, refrigerators, washing machines, domestic appliances, furniture, nails, wooden doors, metal pipes, leather shoes and frames for eyeglasses. Leather suitcases, paint, yeast, pesticides, ballpoint pens, detergents and electric materials.

According to Petra, the prime minister Tuesday also met with Italy's ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten who delivered the Italian government's consent to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Italian ministerial committee to promote trade, economic and cultural cooperation.

Intifada created new conditions for Arab workers — ILO aide

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intifada in the occupied Arab territories has created new circumstances for Palestinian workers, according to a senior official of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"The important question in the occupied territories now is what will be the results of the intifada?" said Claude Rossillon, head of Equality of Rights branch of the ILO. "At any rate, workers are willing to endure all the sacrifices (which accompany the intifada)."

According to the information gathered by the ILO's annual mission to the directly involved countries, Rossillon said, Palestinian officials have indicated that the Palestinians in the occupied territories have suffered big economic losses due to the intifada.

During the mission's three-day visit to Jordan, the three delegates met with officials from the Ministry of Labour, the Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian Federation of Trade Unions, the embassy of Palestine and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the steadfastness of Palestinian people under occupation.

Rossillon, who left Jordan Wednesday, said ILO's annual mission to Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia, aims to collect relevant information on the occupied territories from the respective countries.

Another ILO mission will visit only the occupied territories next month. The information gathered by both missions will be compiled into an annual report, and will be presented to the ILO.

Visits to the occupied territories and surrounding countries have been ongoing since 1978 and 1982 respectively. Rossillon has been on one mission or another for the past ten years.

He says that the workers' condition in the occupied territories have worsened due to the lack of economic development, incentives for economic development in the occupied territories and lack of investors or investments by the Israeli government.

As for the Palestinians who work in the Israeli sector, "the question here is whether they receive equal treatment as Israeli workers," Rossillon said.

The Palestinians say "they are not protected by trade unions, do not receive the benefits of social security or taxes paid," he said. "Since Israel maintains that conditions are okay, we can never find the full truth." But, Rossillon contends that deductions from the wages of Palestinians working in Israel for certain social security schemes, "are of no use to Palestinians since they are not residents of Israel."

This "legalistic and political" point is also applied to the heavy taxes on the wages received by Palestinians. "The Palestinians say that they do not receive any of the returns in the occupied territories, while the Israelis reply

that anyone who wants to work has to pay taxes."

These Palestinian workers in Israel, who are mostly from Gaza, are also the workers facing the most difficult conditions. More than any other workers in the occupied territories they live in "appalling conditions" such as living in small areas with huge concentration of people, poverty and unhealthy surroundings, Rossillon said.

"I always had the impression that something was bound to explode in Gaza... and it did in December 1987," he said.

In addition to employment and labourers' conditions, the Palestinian trade unions' rights are affected by the Israeli occupation authorities. "They (Israelis) claim that the trade unions are a breeding ground for activists," he said.

Rossillon stresses that under such circumstances (occupation), "it is difficult to differentiate between trade union activity and political activity."

The ILO has worked to ensure the continued activity of some trade unions. In 1978, the ILO made recommendations to reopen the trade unions in Jerusalem and Gaza. "They were allowed to reopen but with severe restrictions which have always been a problem," Rossillon said, citing one restriction as "Israelis freezing the situation by not allowing the trade unions to have more members than were present in 1967."

The ILO has also made recommendations, which Rossillon says have been followed, "to some extent by the Israelis." These recommendations have concentrated on extending social security to the Palestinians and

on facilitating the situation for employment and production.

Although he says that the results are not "fully satisfactory," Rossillon points out that the situation is difficult to evaluate. "In the occupied territories everything is obliterated by occupation and the psychological factor which accompanies it. Palestinians feel like foreigners in their own country. So even if there is improvement on behalf of the Israelis, it is in a way true that there can be no improvement with occupation," Rossillon said.

But until occupation ends, the ILO has tried to further alleviate the situation by offering technical assistance, vocational, trade union and self-help training and financing for a number of projects.

The ILO was created after 1918 to coordinate efforts with various countries towards improving the situation of workers. At first the ILO was adopted by the League of Nations. In 1945 the ILO became a specialised U.N. agency working for and defending workers' rights around the world.

As an intergovernmental organisation, the ILO has several bodies which include all member states and which in turn follow up on complaints made by governments, trade unions or employers, adopt resolutions and set up programmes.

The teams, which are sent to different regions, are official representatives of the director general and annual monitoring of situations in different regions continues for as long as the conditions persist.

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The teams, which are sent to different regions, are official representatives of the director general and annual monitoring of situations in different regions continues for as long as the conditions persist.

Last week, the director of the Alien and Border Posts Division at the Public Security Department (PSD) said that by Dec. 31, 1988, there were a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom. He said these include Arab and non-Arab nationals.

Director Mohammad Tarazi said that at present the government is charging JD 100 for work permits issued to Arab workers employed in the Kingdom.

Arab countries consume \$2.3b. worth of medicine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A survey on medicine in the Arab World last year revealed that the Arab countries together consumed \$2.3 billion worth of medicine in 1987, according to Nizar Jardaneh, chairman of the board of the Arab Union of the Manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Appliances (AUPAM).

Jardaneh, who returned from AUPAM, board meeting and a seminar held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, said that the survey also revealed that \$0.8 billion worth of the total consumption was of medicine manufactured in the Arab World.

He said the figures indicated that there was need to develop the Arab World's pharmaceutical industries.

He said production could be raised so that Arab pharmaceuticals could form up to 60 per cent of the Arab World's consumption.

Jardaneh told a press conference here that the three-day seminar in Morocco discussed a host of subjects related to the pharmaceutical industries and called for the establishment of a pan-Arab medicine market in implementation of resolutions passed by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) which formed the AUPAM.

The seminar urged the Arab Nations to carry out projects designed to bring about an integration among Arab states in pharmaceutical production and called for the removal of all barriers that impede the flow of medicine among the Arab states, Jardaneh noted.

He said the seminar decided to study the establishment of a pan-Arab fund to extend assistance to needy Arab states, especially during natural disasters, and that the subject will be referred to the Arab health ministers at their March 20 meeting in Libya.

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30,000 foreigners renew work permits in 3 weeks

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — At least 30,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom renewed their work permits over the past three weeks as a result of a consistent campaign by the Ministry of Labour and its various offices in the Kingdom to ensure that foreign workers were abiding by the ministry regulations, Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin announced here Wednesday.

The minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the campaign will be of a continuous nature, and that on Saturday teams from the Labour Ministry, who had earlier visited firms and companies to ensure the application of the law, will be calling again at the same businesses for the same purpose.

These measures, the minister noted, are being taken to organise the local labour market and to ensure that Jordanians have priority in employment, and that non-Jordanians brought into the country were being employed in jobs for which they had been issued work permits.

Dudin added that the ministry would not hesitate to order non-Jordanians to leave the country if they are found to be violating the law, and that their employers would be held responsible for their actions and will shoulder the cost of their workers' travel back home.

Last week, the director of the Alien and Border Posts Division at the Public Security Department (PSD) said that by Dec. 31, 1988, there were a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom. He said these include Arab and non-Arab nationals.

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Campaign launched to clean up waste in Jordan Valley

DEIR ALLA (Petra, J.T.) — A campaign is being launched in the Jordan Valley region to guide local farmers and citizens on means of disposing of waste plastic which are now being strewn on a wide area of land with harmful effects to the public.

A meeting held under the chairmanship of the central Jordan Valley District governor of

Deir Alla, discussed the problem and decided to entrust heads of local and village councils with the task of forming committees to tour areas and meet with farmers to guide them on means to dispose of the waste, to avoid pollution problems.

The local Department of Education has decided to give instructions on the same issue to

students at schools.

On Dec. 28, Her Majesty Queen Noor chaired a meeting of a committee in charge of planning improvements for the Jordan Valley region and developing its touristic sites.

The committee reported on steps taken for setting up national parks and serviced picnic areas in

the valley with a view to reducing the amount of waste and litter in the fields.

The committee reviewed a draft law to protect the area from pollution as a result of plastic waste, solid and liquid garbage left by visitors and vacationers, and natural manure which serves as a breeding ground for common flies.

King: Efforts needed to implement resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

could only be complete with King Hussein's views, which are characterised with wisdom and far-sightedness.

Plumb invited Jordan to take part in an international parliamentary conference which would bring together 23 European countries, the Arab states and the Palestine National Council (PNC) to discuss the Middle East problem and advance efforts to convene an international peace conference.

The King's meeting with the European Parliament delegation was attended by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odah and the King's special advisor Amer Khammash.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai held talks with the visiting delegation on Middle East developments and efforts for peace in the region.

Plumb said the EEC believes that a just solution to the region's conflict should be based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Rifai voiced Jordan's appreciation of the EEC's position on the issue and called for further cooperation between Jordan and the community in all fields.

The delegation, which arrived here from the occupied territories Wednesday, also held a round of talks with Speaker Lawzi.

Lawzi said that the present favourable international situation should prompt major powers to take serious measures to solve the Middle East problem.

U.N. resolutions on the Middle East, Lawzi said, serve as an umbrella for a just and durable peace.

Jordan believes that peace has become nearer now that the PNC has recognised these resolutions which give Israel the right to live and co-exist with the other nations of the region, Lawzi noted.

The delegation members were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by Lawzi Wednesday evening. In a speech on the occasion, Lawzi paid tribute to Europe and said Jordan believes that a united Europe represents a power and guarantee for peace and prosperity not only for its people but also for the world in general and the Middle East in particular.

Pointing out that Jordan was always committed to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of "land in exchange for peace," and Palestinian national rights through an international conference, Lawzi said Israel "alone insists on its snobbish stands that deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

"Instead of favourably responding to... positive developments on the part of the PLO... and to the implications of the uprising... Israel insists on rejecting international legitimacy and continues its occupation, expansionism and suppression of the Palestinian people by resorting to the most brutal practices as seen in the killing of hundreds, the wounding of thousands, the destruction of houses, the closure of schools and universities, and the expulsion of citizens from their occupied homeland."

Lawzi called on Europe to "effectively play the vital role which is hoped and needed from you."

"Let Europe take the initiative — as a fair independent international power acceptable to all parties — to

achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; to bring an end to the four-decade-long tragedy of the Palestinian people; to make the people of the region and yours, our interests and yours, our principles and yours, avoid the risks of continued wars, violence, disappointment, bloody conflicts and destruction."

In reply, Plumb reaffirmed that Europe was determined to pursue the quest for peace in the region. "I have been impressed by the urgency of the situation in the territories occupied by Israel and the need to engage quickly in genuine discussions to achieve a durable peace," he said.

Following are major excerpts from Plumb's speech: "The European Economic Community has a common voice and a balanced approach to the present situation. We believe that a settlement must be based on two necessary conditions — the right of self-determination and all that entails for the Palestinians, and secondly, the recognition of the state of Israel and its right of existence within secure borders."

"I travelled to Amman from Israel where I had the opportunity for very useful discussions, and the chance to appreciate and understand Israeli concerns."

"In return, I explained that the necessity for convening an international peace conference."

Martinez said the group's trip to Jordan follows Europe's realisation that it should play a more effective role in the peace process since Europe's role had so far fallen short of expectations.

Rifai, Lawzi meet delegation

(Continued from page 1)

He said King Hussein had, through constant endeavours on the Arab and international scenes, played a leading role in changing the march of peace in the region as the world community comes to a consensus over the

same sympathy which had been evident when Western European countries supported the creation of the state of Israel, demanded that we now give similar understanding to the Palestinian right to self-determination. The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, now in its second year, has renewed world attention on this problem. Without recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, there can be no lasting peace for the countries of this region. But the right of self-determination will only be reality when Israel's right to a secure existence is also guaranteed."

"When I addressed the Knesset on Tuesday, I emphasised that a perpetuation of existing policies in the occupied territories could only hold out the prospect of escalating violence."

"I believe that there is a time for peace, and I believe that time is now. I urged that negotiations should now take place. Israel must engage in dialogue."

"None of us know what will be revealed in the refining fire of negotiations. But the European Economic Community will be watching most attentively and with comprehension. We believe we have identified the key elements of an acceptable agreement. We stand ready to participate in and support the efforts of an international peace conference to provide a lasting peace in this region."

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(Continued from page 1)

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI SENDS CONDOLENCES: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has delegated the governor of Irbid to participate in the funeral of Mariam Mahmud Khasawneh and to convey his condolences to the Khasawneh family. (Petra)

HINDAWI MEETS JOSPIN: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday held talks with French Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports Lionel Jospin on the sidelines of an international conference on education. They discussed educational, cultural, and technical cooperation between Jordan and France. (Petra)

DAJANI RECEIVES U.K. ENVOY: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Wednesday reviewed with British Ambassador in Amman Anthony Reeve the existing cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

MINISTERS TO VISIT GHOR: The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of State at the Prime Ministry will visit the Ghor region Thursday to inspect the extent of damage the agricultural projects sustained in the wake of the acute drop in temperature which affected the region recently. (Petra)

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: Zarqa Governor Id Al Qatarch Wednesday discussed with Director General of Urban Development Department Dr. Hisham Zagha development projects at Janaa region and means to boost housing projects in Ruseifeh, Yajouz, and Al Dahiriyyeh. (Petra)

OICC CONFERENCE: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Wednesday reviewed with Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) Abdul Qadir Onshak the special arrangements to be undertaken for the fifth OICC conference which is due to convene in Amman in the second half of March. (Petra)

72.1 million cubic metres of water stored in reservoirs

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The total amount of rain water stored in reservoirs behind dams in Jordan is now estimated at 72.1 million cubic metres, according to Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) secretary general.

Bani Hani said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that water behind the King Talal Dam is now estimated at 56 million cubic metres, out of a total reservoir capacity of 90 million, the Wadi Al Arab Dam has

10 million cubic metres, Sharhabil Dam, 2.6 million and Kafra and Wadi Shueib each, 900,000 cubic metres of water.

The rain water which is collected in the reservoirs is being used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley during the dry season.

The recent rains were instrumental in replenishing the reservoirs, and according to the Department of Meteorology, rain that fell by the end of December surpassed the general average by 130 to 150 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madameh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "New Museum Buildings in the Federal Republic of Germany" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nibal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Yugoslavian graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

FILM

- ★ A feature film "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Small locust swarms eliminated near Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of small swarms of locusts which entered Jordanian territory in the Aqaba region have been eliminated, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday.

The announcement said that the locusts, which infiltrated to the areas of Sbowel and Wadi Al Yitem within the Aqaba area, had come from neighbouring Saudi Arabia where local teams there had been combating them in the area of badi which lies some 50 kilometres from the province of Haql.

The ministry announcement denied that any swarms of locusts

had entered or settled in the Wadi Al Yitem and Wadi Rum areas in southern Jordan.

Jordan Times

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Calling on the Israelis

BRITAIN'S Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe is right in going over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's head by appealing directly to the Israelis to reciprocate the Palestinian peace overtures. Sir Geoffrey made his appeal from Sanaa Sunday during a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic in which he urged Israelis "to test the offer that the PLO has made to commit itself to the search for peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." The British foreign secretary went on to tell the Israeli people: "You have nothing to lose by negotiation; you have much to lose by the perpetration of the present violence and hostility" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is an obvious explanation for this unusual diplomacy: The Israeli leadership's obstinacy in rejecting outright anything that comes out of the PLO has become so hardened and impregnable that even the friends and allies of Israel are convinced that their only hope to maintain the momentum of peace in the Middle East is to by-pass the aging Israeli leadership and cultivate Israeli public opinion in a positive direction. Translated into practical manifestations, the international community must therefore await the results of future Israeli national elections when the enlarging nucleus of Israeli body politic in favour of a dialogue and negotiations with the PLO can attain clout and power within Israel.

What is even more commendable about this unorthodox British diplomacy is the observation that it is part and parcel of a twin-track strategy aiming at convincing the Israelis to test the PLO's intentions and offers for peace as well as convincing the new George Bush administration to give the Arab-Israeli conflict high priority when it assumes power in Washington.

The future and fate of the peace process in the Middle East therefore hinge on the attainment of these two complimentary objectives. There are already ample signs that the two objectives are indeed attainable. That is why the sense of optimism generated by the PLO's most recent stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict is consolidating and strengthening in spite of the Israeli leadership's desperate efforts to derail it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday said that the United States has a special role to play in establishing peace and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict in view of the strong U.S.-Israeli relations. In a meeting with U.S. senators and congressmen visiting Jordan Tuesday, King Hussein reviewed the developments in the region and urged the U.S. public opinion and government to work for peace and exert pressure on Israel to respond favourably to the Arab Nation's bid for peace and security based on justice, the paper said. Four decades have passed since the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and the people of this region began to despair over the lost chances for peace, the paper noted. It said that the Middle East years for security and stability which can only come through a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The paper added that the people of this region had renewed hopes that peace will be established in view of the fresh international community's clear orientation to solve the Middle East problem and restore security. Peace it said is the only feasible alternative that would save the people of this region further sufferings and tragedies.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focuses light on the international conference on chemical weapons in Paris and the attitude of the major powers of the world which possess nuclear and chemical arsenals. The conference has shed light on several issues connected with mass destruction weapons and raised a number of unanswered questions about the right of nations to produce and stockpile such devastating arms, says Rakan Al Majali who is also the paper's editor. The writer cites the United States as an example of those countries, owning all forms of mass destruction weapons and trying to impose its will on smaller nations, denying them the right to possess means with which they can defend themselves. Moreover, the United States which continues to back Israel's acts of aggression is now trying to intimidate the Arabs by threatening to blow up the pharmaceutical plant near Tripoli as a service to its Israeli ally, the writer notes. Of course the U.S.-Israeli alliance has a strategic plan to deprive the Arabs of the right to build their own power that might threaten the military force of Israel and constitute danger to the Jewish state's nuclear or chemical arsenals, the writer continues. He says the U.S. has committed a series of terrorist acts against the Arab Nation with or without the assistance of Israel; but the recent aggression on Libya and the downing of its aircraft should be regarded as one more link in the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy.

Al Dustour daily said that King Hussein has once again explained to the United States through its visiting senators and congressmen the situation in the Arab region and the Arab Nation's clear orientation towards a just and durable peace. The Arabs are openly working for peace and supporting the Palestinian people to achieve that goal and regain their rights, the paper said. The whole world has welcomed the Palestinian declaration of recognition of U.N. Security Council resolutions, a denunciation of terrorism and an acceptance of peace based on justice, the paper added. It said that the King has voiced Jordan's satisfaction with Washington's decision to open a dialogue with the PLO in a bid to reach an understanding over a lasting settlement. The monarch said that there is need now to intensify the world community's efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

Sawt Al Shaah daily noted that Jordan's contacts with the world powers are pan of its on-going offensive world-wide to promote the peace process. Statements by members of the visiting U.S. delegations on the Middle East developments give clear evidence of the U.S. understanding of the situation and rekindle hope that Washington will now be taking a different view and will work more seriously and in a more realistic manner to help establish peace.

By Hafiz D. Tuqan

AMONG THE books I read when a curfew was imposed on Nablus Friday, Dec. 16, 1988 — that black, bloody day when five Nablus youths were shot dead and more than 10 were injured, three of whom died later — was one put out by the Israeli army.

The book I refer to is *The Carrot and the Stick* by General Shlomo Gazit, translated by Lu'ayy Abdoh who was deported by the Israeli authorities some months ago. The 400-page book deals with the early days of occupation. It is not my intention to review the book nor to comment on the contents because I lived through those black, trying days in my capacity as a member of the municipal council and the Nablus Chamber of Commerce. One main subject in the book concerns me and that is "autonomy" which has been on the minds of the Israeli leadership since 1968.

Through my daily pursuit of events occurring in the Israeli political arena as portrayed in the available media, I found out that the idea of imposing autonomy still holds. During the last days of the former two-headed Israeli government, there was much talk about imposing autonomy unilaterally. In this connection,

there was an Israeli press report that Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin had arrived last November at a secret understanding, as the intifada flared up, to give autonomy to the people of the occupied territories.

According to this agreement, autonomy would take place in 1989 and establishment of this rule would be in the eastern sector of Jerusalem. In addition, the Israeli media reported the movements of Likud's Moshe Arens and Labour's Gad Ya'acobi and Moshe Shahal, who presented the subject of autonomy before the former cabinet in its last days.

I shall now mention briefly what General Gazit said about autonomy 20 years ago: "On June 29, 1968, the prime minister, Levi Eshkol, held a discussion with Moshe Sasson, who was entrusted with holding contacts with West Bank personalities regarding an autonomy idea. Sasson was given detailed directions on presenting the said plan to those personalities in a positive and accepted manner." (Sasson actually held several talks with mayors in the southern region of the West Bank). What those lines convey to us is that the Israeli political leadership has been trying to impose autonomy all these years.

A few weeks ago, the Civil Administration in Nablus renewed its contacts with me after the cessation of such relations when I left the mayorship on March 3, 1988. On that day, I submitted by resignation to the administration which then refused it. Since that time, I have not gone to the municipality nor have I performed any work connected with the municipality. The meeting at the Civil Administration office lasted for two hours, at the end of which I made it very clear to the governor that I was determined not to go back to being mayor, in answer to his request, that my refusal is based on principles and that there is no need to waste time on details.

The impression I got during that meeting and afterwards was that the question went beyond the Nablus mayorship. The aim was to enforce autonomy. If it could work in Nablus, then enforcement in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza would be easy. Why else the return to the subject of the municipality at this particular time?

The authorities seemed to imagine that imposing autonomy would be a counter-attack to the Palestinian peace initiative and that this would free their necks from the Palestinian peace yoke, and thus bar the creation of the

Palestinian state on what remains of Palestinian territory. All this after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 at the PNC congress held in Algiers, in his address to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva, and in the press conference that forced the American administration to have a dialogue with the PLO, which actually took place in the Tunisian capital.

If the Israeli leadership think they are able to impose autonomy now and that they will succeed in what they failed to do 20 years ago, they are mistaken.

Do they imagine that after the intifada has entered its second year, after the loss of 303 martyrs, after 20,000 injuries by bullets, beatings and suffocation from tear-gas, after 20,000 prisoners have been taken, 138 homes have been destroyed and 32 people from the West Bank and Gaza have been deported (Israel Ministry of Defence figures up till December 7, 1988), do they believe that after all this repression, after all the success the PLO has achieved in the world, after recognition of the Palestinian state by many coun-

tries, and after embassies have been opened — do they imagine they would be able to enforce an autonomy refused beforehand, no matter what shape or form it takes?

The Palestinians under Israeli occupation have been suffering from all sorts of repression for 21 years. Men, women and children have gone through various forms of inhuman treatment day and night. I witnessed many such incidents during my tenure as Nablus mayor for two years. So did Colonel Rami Yadin, the former governor of Nablus, when I accompanied dozens of old men, women and children to his office to enable them to report the inhuman practices they had suffered. I still keep copies of written protests I used to send to Colonel Yadin.

Is it possible, after all these practices, that any Palestinian would accept Israeli domination?

Lately, some rational voices from realistic Israelis such as Ephraim Sneh have been heard. He says that Israel is now faced with a new situation where past forms do not fit. MK Lova Eliav also says that it is high time for a strong and realistic Israeli leadership to come forward and begin negotiations with the PLO as an option for a road to peace.

Some days ago, a Dahaf ques-

tionnaire gave the figure of 54 per cent for Israelis supporting negotiations with the PLO. This is a positive pointer and an important step forward.

We address the new Israeli government and tell them that the intifada has created a new situation in the occupied territories and that such a situation will never be stopped by force and by repressive measures no matter how harsh these measures may be. It is in the interest of all to put an end to occupation which is abhorred and resented to the marrow, and to look for a political solution which ensures us the right to self-determination and establishment of our Palestinian state on our land. This is the real road to peace which will save all of us from a dilemma that has lasted for more than 40 years.

The idea of imposing autonomy was stillborn. Blocking the course of history and turning the clock back will not save us from this dilemma. On the contrary, it will only endanger the whole area. And he who opts for this destructive course will be the loser. The analogies are numerous.

The writer is the former mayor of Nablus. This article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post*.

U.N. resolutions which Israel ignores

By Donald Neff

THE GENERAL Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations have passed around 300 resolutions on the Middle East over the past 41 years, the vast majority of them directed specifically at Israel. The Security Council, where the United States, as a permanent member, holds power of veto, passed 43 of those resolutions condemning Israel. It would have passed 23 others equally critical, but the U.S. employed its once rarely used veto to protect its ally. Of the U.N. resolutions, both by General Assembly and Security Council, the Palestinians had accepted them all except three — Resolutions 181, 242 and 338, all of which it finally accepted at its recent Algiers meetings. Israel continues to reject all the rest. Since the Palestinians now embrace all resolutions, it is fair to ask which of them Israel is ready to endorse.

None of the resolutions are exactly revolutionary. They are not, as Israel and its supporters contort themselves into claiming, mandates for "Israel's destruction." At their strongest they call for what is considered civilised behaviour in the final years of the 20th century. Israel is requested to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the U.N. Charter, to withdraw from territory occupied by force, to grant Palestinians the right of self-determination and to respect Palestinian property, political freedoms and human rights. This hardly fits a prescription for destruction; rather it is an injunction to act humanely.

Following is a sampler of some of the more significant resolutions by the Security Council and the General Assembly which have been rejected by Israel.

Security Council

Resolution 267, unanimously passed on July 3, 69: "condemned in the strongest terms" Israel's measures to change the status of

Jerusalem (and declared all such measures "invalid") and deplored "the failure of Israel to show any regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council..."

Resolution 446, passed March 22, 79: deplored Israel's establishment of settlements on occupied territories as "a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace." The vote was 12-0-3, with the U.S., Britain and Norway abstaining.

Resolution 469, May 20, 80: "strongly deplores Israel's violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention in its expulsions of the mayors of Hebron and Halhul." The vote was 14-0-1, with the U.S. abstaining.

Resolution 478, passed August 20, 80: censured Israel for annexing Jerusalem on July 30, declared the action "null and void" and called on the few countries maintaining embassies in Jerusalem to move them to Tel Aviv where the United States and most other nations had their legations. The United States abstained in the 14-0-1 vote.

Resolutions 487 and 497, unanimously passed June 19 and December 17, 81: "strongly" condemned Israel's air raid on June 7 on Iraq's nuclear facility at Baghdad and condemned Israel's December 14 annexation of Syria's Golan Heights, captured in 1967.

Resolutions 515 and 517, passed July 29, and August 4, 82: demanded that Israel lift its siege of Beirut and allow the distribution of supplies to the civilian population, and censured Israel for then refusing to lift its siege. The vote was 14-0-1 for both resolutions, with the U.S. abstaining both times.

Finally, the Security Council has been busy during the uprising in the occupied territories. Even the United States acquiesced in some of the condemnations as a result of Israel's extraordinarily brutal behaviour. Thus:

Resolution 605 on December 22, 87: "strongly deplores Israel's

policies and practices which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." The U.S. abstained.

Resolution 607, on January 5, 88: unanimously called on Israel to refrain from carrying out its plans, announced on January 3, to deport nine Palestinians and also "reaffirms once again" that Palestinians in the occupied territories are protected by the Geneva Convention.

Resolution 608, of January 14, expressed "deep regret that Israel, the occupying power, has, in defiance of that resolution, deported Palestinian civilians." The vote was 14-0-1 with the U.S. abstaining.

In addition, the United States vetoed two other resolutions highly critical of Israel in the uprising: on February 1, a Council resolution called on Israel to abandon its policies against the uprising that violate the rights of occupied Palestinians, abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and formalised a leading role for the U.N. in future peace negotiations; but the U.S. vetoed. And on April 15, America vetoed a resolution which urged Israel to allow back deported Palestinians, condemned Israel's shooting of civilians, called on Israel to uphold the Fourth Geneva Convention and called for a peace settlement under U.N. auspices.

General Assembly

Resolution 194, passed December 11, 48: called on Israel to show a humanitarian regard for the 726,000 Palestinian refugees created by Israel in 1948 and allow them to return to their homes. It also said Jerusalem was holy to three religions and should come under an international regime. The Assembly and the Security Council were to repeat these pleas over the next four decades without result.

The General Assembly in particular has focused on the plight of the Palestinians and passed numerous resolutions aimed at

guaranteeing their rights. Israel has ignored them all.

Resolution 2546 (XXIV), passed December 11, 69: called on Israel to comply with the Geneva Conventions and stop its repressive policies toward the occupied population. Resolution 2792 D and E (XXVI), December 6, 1971 reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and called on Israel to allow the return of "displaced inhabitants", and to stop destroying Palestinian homes. Resolution 3092 A and B (XXVIII), December 7, 1973 again called on Israel to respect the Geneva Convention and "declares that Israel's policy of annexation, establishment of settlements and transfer of an alien population to the occupied territories is in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations... and the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people, as well as an impediment to the establishment of a just and lasting peace."

Resolution 3379 (XXX), November 10, 1975 determined that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination", based on the Assembly's definition established in Resolution 1904 (XVIII) of November 20, 1963, which defined racial discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin." Both Israel and the United States voted for the 1963 resolution but against the 1975 resolution when the definition was applied to Zionism. The vote was 72-35-32.

Resolution 3161, passed December 9, 1976, requests once again all states to desist from supplying Israel with military and other forms of aid or any assistance which would enable it to consolidate its occupation or to exploit the natural resources of the occupied territories." Resolution 36147 C, December 16, 1981, declared that "Israel's grave breaches of the Geneva Convention are war crimes and an affront to humanity." Resolu-



tion ES-74, passed April 28, 82, again called on the Security Council to recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and condemned Israel, describing it as "not a peace-loving member state (of the U.N.) which has carried out neither its obligations under the Charter nor its commitment under General Assembly Resolution 273 (III) of May 11, 49 (Israel's admission to the U.N., when it pledged to abide by the Charter)." On November 3, 1987, the General Assembly voted 130 to 2 to condemn Israel's suppression of the Palestinian uprising. The United States and Israel cast the only opposition votes while 16 other countries, including Britain and Canada, abstained. The resolution strongly condemned Israel for "killing and wounding defenceless Palestinians." The U.S. representative Okun said the U.S. opposed the resolution because its "harsh rhetoric" could only "inflame an already embittered situation, making it more difficult to proceed towards a negotiated settlement."

The final irony in this tawdry tale of spurned advice and U.S.-Israeli collusion is the fact that while the Palestinians were relentlessly pressured into accepting unequivocally Resolution 242, the reality is that Israel has paid lip service to 242 but never actually embraced it. The resolution specifically calls for "withdrawal of Israel's armed forces

from territories occupied in the recent (1967) conflict." But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc have repeatedly declared publicly that there will never be any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. That hardly fits with the resolution's clear language — no matter how quibbling Israel fudges in about the extent of withdrawal because of the absence of the word "the" before "territories." The resolution plainly and unambiguously calls for withdrawal and this Shamir refuses even to discuss.

But somehow the state department and the American media make all this sound as though it is the Palestinians who are being recalcitrant. State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman reflected this astigmatic view in reacting to the Palestinian National Council meeting when he said with a straight face that "more movement on key issues will be required (by the PLO)." That he said this just after the PLO had renounced "terror," called for a peace conference, recognised Israel and accepted Resolution 242 did not elicit a gasp of incredulity. Quite the reverse, most U.S. newspapers parroted the position that the PLO still had to make more "compromises." That says about as much as anything could about how far the United States still has to go to catch up with the world community — Middle East International, London.

Ozal's leadership style triggers concern

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

ANKARA — The independent leadership style of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is causing concern following the resignation of his deputy and a bureaucratic shake-up.

Ozal, in the midst of possibly his worst political crisis since taking office in 1983 after three years of army rule, is regarded as autocratic by sections of his loose-knit party and muddleheaded by some senior economic bureaucrats and bankers.

For the first time, senior members of the ruling Motherland Party are speaking out about what they view as Ozal's almost Ottoman-style leadership and the power he invests in his family.

Ozal, a 61-year-old conservative who has applied to take Turkey into the European Community, said the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem would not affect his party.

But one Motherland deputy, described by the mass-circulation daily *Hurriyet* as a person who had held high party posts, told reporters:

"We are not able to express ourselves. Although Ozal is still the party leader he has suffered losses. Now there are objections from the deputies... from time to

time they reach a dimension which threatens to split the party."

"One day something will happen and we will face very serious consequences," the deputy said.

Ozal is viewed widely as the only man who can keep intact the Motherland Party, embracing politicians from the Muslim right to Western-style liberals. The party won 292 seats in the 450-seat parliament in the November 1987 general election.

Erdem, 60, was a long-time Ozal friend who helped to heal party rifts and acted as a conduit to opposition parties.

He stepped down last week after Bulent Semler, 34, quit as head of the state-run Konutbank following a row with Erdem involving a businessman charged with an \$80-million bank swindle.

Semler was one of the Western-trained "princes" brought home by Ozal to oversee economic liberalisation in predominantly-Muslim Turkey.

In a separate move last week Ozal's younger brother, State Minister Yusuf Ozal, 49, ordered at least 35 transfers from the Treasury, Treasury sources said.

They said Treasury Undersecretary Yavuz Canevi, an old-style conservative official, immediately went on holiday and was likely to resign because he

was not consulted.

"Operation Sledgehammer" launched by Yusuf Ozal will continue. The campaign is one of bureaucratic liquidation in what Yusuf Ozal has called the weak link (the Treasury) which used to be under the influence of Erdem. Hurriyet said.

"It is also seen as a step in Yusuf Ozal's move towards becoming the single voice in the economy," it added.

Independent political sources said Yusuf Ozal, more liberal minded on the economy than Canevi, would not have acted without the prime minister's consent.

"The latest developments have caused concern," a senior Istanbul banker said.

"I have received calls from Western bankers outside Turkey worried that events could lead to instability on the economy. I tried to calm the bankers down but the sooner the economic and political situation gets calmer the better," he added.

Banking sources say Yusuf Ozal has been at odds over policy with Central Bank Governor Rusdu Saracoglu, regarded as the best of the "princes" — a description used frequently by newspapers.

"If Saracoglu was to go then we

would really have problems. He is an able banker and a respected international negotiator," said a Western diplomat who follows the economy.

Saracoglu, 40, who wants a tight monetary policy to curb nearly 80 per cent inflation, was angered last October when Turgut Ozal decontrolled bank deposit interest rates to prevent a foreign exchange run on the Turkish lira.

Motherland politicians have expressed anger over what they see as the political hold Ozal's wife Semra has over him.

Ozal, whose nephew Husnu Dogan is agriculture minister, had heart bypass surgery two years ago and was injured in an assassination attempt in mid-1988.

A short, stout man who sees Turkey's future pinned to the West, he frequently exudes an air of jovial confidence in public. But aides say in private he is given to bouts of anger.

"At policy meetings he hears what everyone has to say then makes the decision, sometimes against the general trend of discussion. Very frustrating," said one former top banker.

Asked by Reuters last year how he arrived at decisions, Ozal said: "I get a gut feeling and know it is right."

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Man can't live by bread alone

By Salah Abdul Samad

IT IS difficult for us to find any logical reason behind the soaring prices of imported books and publications, a trend which manifested itself in the wake of the recent government economic measures. We are surprised to witness such a development, especially since books are exempted from any customs duty and are not subject to the recent measures.

It is indeed astonishing and regrettable to see the prices of books being hiked in some cases by 100 per cent against a rise in foreign currency exchange rate of only 30 per cent. One would conclude that importers of foreign books had seized the opportunity of differences in exchange rates in order

to raise the prices of their commodities, many of which had been lying in stores in Jordan long before the government decision came into effect.

This situation prompts one to believe that the private sector, which monopolises the importation and distribution of these books, does not appreciate nor can it live up to the expectations of being the only party with the right to such transactions. Should this trend continue, one can only become convinced that the time has come for the public sector to intervene and assume the task of importing and distributing books in Jordan at reasonable prices. Books, which certainly are not a luxury commodity, should be rightly considered as essential to the public as food and medicine.

EN BREF

CEE. Henry Plumb à Amman

Henry Plumb, président du parlement européen, est arrivé mercredi à Amman, où il a eu des entretiens avec le Roi Hussein, auquel il a apporté son soutien pour ses efforts en vue d'un règlement pacifique dans le conflit proche-oriental. M. Plumb arrivera d'Israël et des territoires occupés. Devant la Knesset, il avait appelé Israël à se retirer des territoires occupés et à engager la négociation. Shmuel, tout en continuant à exhorter le dialogue avec l'OLP, a toutefois émis un terrain en acceptant le principe d'un rôle des Nations-Unies dans des négociations de paix. Mais il a précisé qu'il ne pouvait s'agir que de "pourparlers directs avec la partie arabe", écartant implicitement une conférence internationale. Par ailleurs, Yasser Arafat a eu des entretiens lundi au Caire avec une délégation du Conseil de l'Europe, et a estimé que "l'Europe a un rôle à jouer dans le processus de paix".

Amal-Hezbollah: pas de répit

Les miliciens chiites pro-syriens d'Amal et le Hezbollah pro-iranien continuent de se battre au Sud de Saïda, dans le dernier fief du Hezbollah, à la frontière de la zone dite "de sécurité" instaurée par Israël au Sud-Liban. Au moins 126 personnes ont trouvé la mort dans ces combats qui font rage depuis le 1er janvier. Damas et Téhéran tentent de réconcilier les deux milices, après une semaine de combats particulièrement meurtriers autour des positions du Hezbollah, où Amal a déployé quelque 1.000 combattants soutenus par des chars T.54 pour prendre le contrôle de Jubah, à 16 kilomètres au Sud de Saïda, où sont encerclés 500 miliciens du Hezbollah.

Aide américaine: Egypte et Israël d'abord

Israël et l'Egypte restent les principaux bénéficiaires de l'aide américaine à l'étranger dans le projet de budget pour le Département d'Etat en 1990, présente lundi. Sur un total de 19,4 milliards de dollars pour le département d'Etat, Israël reste le plus important bénéficiaire, avec 3 milliards de dollars, dont 1,8 au titre de l'aide militaire, sans changement par rapport à l'année dernière. L'Egypte vient derrière avec 2,276 milliards, dont 1,301 d'aide militaire. 2,288 milliards avaient été demandés pour l'année budgétaire 1989. Seule modification importante dans la répartition de l'aide au Proche-Orient, l'aide économique au Liban fait un bon, passant de 300.000 dollars à 14 millions pour 1990. Les deux nouvelles forces de maintien de l'ONU, le groupe d'observateurs militaires des Nations Unies pour l'Irak et l'Irak, et le groupe d'assistance des Nations Unies pour la transition en Namibie recevront respectivement 20 millions et 50 millions de dollars.

Arens: non à l'OLP

Moshe Arens, ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, a estimé, lundi à Paris, que l'OLP était une "organisation terroriste" et que "toute légitimité qui lui était accordée ne contribuerait pas au processus de paix". M. Arens a indiqué avoir fait part de son sentiment à Roland Dumas, ministre français des Affaires étrangères, lors de l'entretien que les deux hommes ont eu en marge de la conférence sur les armes chimiques, à la suite de la décision de la France d'élever la mission de l'OLP au rang de "délégation générale de Palestine".

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en français, avec idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Ducoux, Jordan Times, 667171.

Le saviez-vous? Frémissement israélien

Sous la croûte du "front dur rétro", l'opinion israélienne est en train d'évoluer: un sondage publié fin décembre posait la question "êtes-vous pour ou contre une négociation avec Arafat, à condition qu'il renonce réellement au terrorisme?" Résultat: oui à 54%, contre non à 44%, sans opinion à 2%. Il y a un an, la même question ne recueillait que 25% de "oui". Par ailleurs, une manifestation de "Paix maintenant" a récemment rassemblé des dizaines de milliers de personnes sous la pluie à Tel Aviv. On murmure à Jérusalem que Shmuel ne croit plus guère à l'annexion des territoires occupés. (D'après l'Evening News).

La représentation de l'OLP élevée au rang d'ambassade de Palestine

Arafat hisse les couleurs à Amman

La visite en Jordanie du chef de l'OLP, Mr. Yasser Arafat, a été couronnée samedi par l'élévation au rang d'ambassade de la représentation palestinienne à Amman, dans un geste de reconnaissance, sans ambiguïté, par la Jordanie de l'Etat palestinien indépendant.

Le chef de l'OLP a estimé que l'ouverture d'une ambassade de Palestine à Amman était un "cadeau du Roi Hussein au peuple de l'Intifada". Après avoir hissé le drapeau palestinien, il a affirmé espérer que les "drapeaux jordaniens et palestiniens flotteront un jour, côte à côte, sur Jérusalem libérée".

Mettant l'accent sur "les relations privilégiées entre les peuples

palestinien et jordanien", M. Arafat a rappelé que l'OLP s'est "engagée à établir une confédération entre les Etats de Palestine et de Jordanie".

Le premier ministre jordanien, M. Zeid Rifai, a affirmé pour sa part que la décision jordanienne "fait partie de la reconnaissance par la Jordanie de l'Etat palestinien indépendant" et a exprimé l'espoir "que le drapeau palestinien flotte bientôt sur la terre de Palestine dès l'établissement de l'Etat indépendant".

Dans les milieux politiques jordaniens, on indique que le geste d'Amman est "une preuve supplémentaire de l'absence de toute ambition ou dessein de la Jordanie à l'égard de la Cisjordanie et de la bande de Gaza, qu'elle reconnaît comme territoires de l'Etat palestinien in-

dépendant". La Jordanie avait rompu le 31 juillet ses "liens légaux et administratifs" avec la Cisjordanie, rattachée au Royaume depuis 1950, et occupée par Israël en 1967, afin de "mettre en valeur l'entité palestinienne sur la terre de Palestine". Cette rupture, selon ces mêmes milieux, a été à l'origine de la réunion du Conseil National Palestinien (CNP) — parlement en exil, qui a proclamé le 15 novembre l'Etat palestinien indépendant, reconnu à ce jour par 90 pays selon des sources palestiniennes.

Après avoir laissé l'OLP, considéré comme le "représentant unique et légitime du peuple palestinien", la responsabilité du peuple et de la terre palestinienne, Amman se borne aujourd'hui à assurer de son "soutien" la

centrale palestinienne dans toutes les initiatives publiques qu'elle entreprendrait, ajoute-t-on dans ces mêmes milieux.

Le Roi Hussein, qui a eu deux séries d'entretiens vendredi et samedi à Amman avec le chef de l'OLP, a affirmé que la Jordanie soutient M. Arafat et les frères palestiniens "de toutes ses forces jusqu'à la réalisation de leur indépendance".

De source jordanienne informée, on indique qu'Amman a fait part à l'OLP de son intention de la soutenir dans sa demande de réunion d'un sommet arabe. Le porte-parole de l'OLP, M. Ahmad Abdel Rahman, avait affirmé Samedi à l'AAP que l'OLP estime "nécessaire" la tenue d'un sommet arabe afin de "soutenir l'initiative politique de l'OLP". (Randa Habib, AFP)



Avant tout, un symbole du soutien jordanien à l'OLP

Conférence de Paris sur les armes chimiques

La "bombe atomique du pauvre"

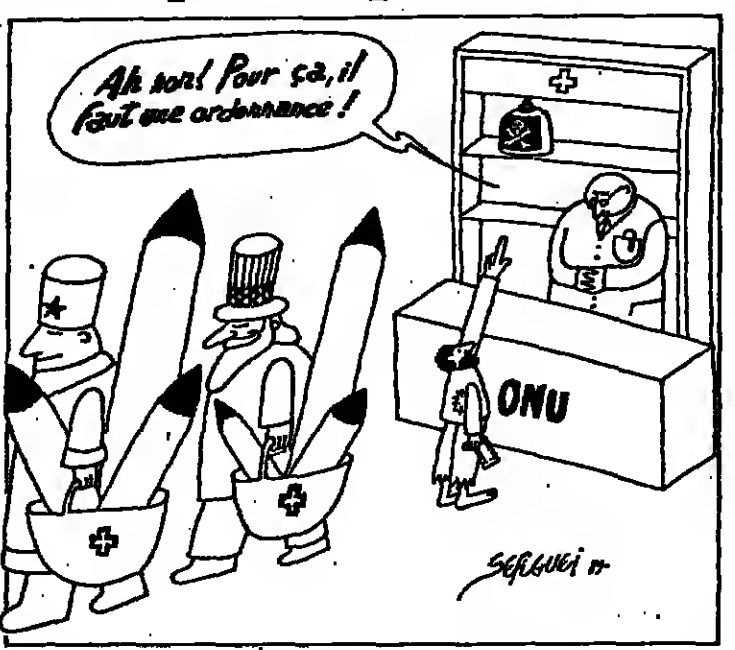
La première conférence internationale sur l'interdiction des armes chimiques, ouverte samedi à Paris, a été marquée par une polémique entre pays industrialisés et pays en voie de développement. Selon ces derniers, la "bombe atomique du pauvre" ne peut être dissociée de la vraie, réservée aux riches.

Les 141 pays représentés au Palais de l'UNESCO devaient adopter mercredi une déclaration condamnant l'usage (convention de Genève de 1925), mais aussi la fabrication et la détention d'armes chimiques (cf. page 1). Les premiers intervenants, notamment François Mitterrand et le Secrétaire d'Etat américain Georges Shultz, ont plaidé pour un bannissement sans appel de ces armes. Le président français a assuré, au moins en ce qui concerne la France, que "le désarmement chimique n'est pas dissociable des autres formes de désarmement, notamment nucléaire".

Mais ces assurances ne semblent pas avoir dissipé les appréhensions des pays du tiers-monde, qui redoutent d'être sacrifiés sur l'autel de la grand-messe anti-chimique en se faisant déposer, sans contrepartie, de leurs seuls armes stratégiques. Les pays arabes, en particulier, ont insisté sur la nécessité de lier le chimique et le nucléaire. "Israël a développé tous les types d'armes de destruction massive et a des stocks d'armes chimiques et nucléaires (...). Dans ce contexte, le gouvernement syrien est prêt à éliminer ses armes de destruction massive quand Israël en fera de même", a notamment indiqué le ministre syrien des Affaires étrangères à la veille de la conférence. Même son de cloche du côté irakien.

Chimique contre nucléaire? Tel n'est pas l'avis des Occidentaux, qui considèrent que l'arme atomique relève de la catégorie des armes de dissuasion. L'arme chimique, elle, est considérée comme une arme d'usage courant, comme l'attestent les derniers conflits régionaux (Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iran-Irak).

Les experts estiment généralement à environ une vingtaine le nombre des pays détenteurs, bien



Libye-USA: chassé-croisé

En marge de la conférence de Paris, Libyens et Américains continuent à croiser le fer par médias interposés. Deux questions restaient toujours sans réponse mercredi: l'usine de Rabta fabrique-t-elle des armes chimiques, comme l'affirment les Etats-Unis? Les deux Mig libyens abattus il y a une semaine par des chasseurs américains menaçaient-ils vraiment ces derniers?

Sur le premier point, Tripoli continue à soutenir qu'on ne produit que des médicaments à Rabta. Mais la presse internationale, invitée à visiter le site, n'a pas pu pénétrer à l'intérieur des bâtiments. La Libye a demandé à Paris l'interdiction des armes chimiques en accusant les Etats-Unis d'être "le plus grand producteur et le plus grand réservoir d'armes chimiques". Washington, qui repousse une invitation libyenne à des conversations directes, persiste à ne pas écarter une éventuelle action militaire sur Rabta.

Sur la destruction des Mig, les explications du Pentagone laissent des zones d'ombre, n'apportant pas vraiment la preuve que les chasseurs Libyens avaient des intentions hostiles: à aucun moment, ils n'ont paru vouloir tirer les radars de tir n'ont pas été dirigés sur les avions américains, contrairement à des informations diffusées aussitôt après l'incident.

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Retrouailles Damas-Rabat

La reprise des relations diplomatiques entre la Syrie et le Maroc, annoncée simultanément lundi dans les capitales des deux pays, entre dans le cadre des efforts entrepris par l'Arabie Saoudite et la Jordanie pour assainir les relations entre pays arabes en vue de la tenue d'un sommet arabe ordinaire à Ryad, estiment les observateurs.

Aucun sommet arabe ordinaire ne s'est tenu depuis celui de Fès (Maroc) en septembre 1982, qui avait adopté un plan arabe de paix en sept points pour le Proche-Orient, reconnaissant implicitement l'existence d'Israël et affirmant le droit du peuple palestinien à un Etat avec Jérusalem comme capitale.

Le communiqué officiel publié à Rabat souligne: "A la suite de l'initiative fraternelle entreprise par le royaume d'Arabie Saoudite en vue d'éliminer les obstacles entravant l'action arabe concertée pour faire face aux dangers qui menacent la nation arabe, les gouvernements maro-

caïn et syrien ont décidé de rétablir les relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays frères". La réconciliation entre Damas et Rabat est donc la conséquence directe d'une médiation du prince héritier saoudien Abdallah Ben Abdellaziz qui entretient de très bonnes relations personnelles aussi bien avec les dirigeants syriens que marocains, estiment les observateurs. Le prince se trouvait depuis samedi au Maroc en visite "privée" après avoir quitté Damas où il avait rencontré le président Hafez Al Assad.

Les relations diplomatiques entre le Maroc et la Syrie ont été rompues, à l'initiative de Damas, à la suite de l'entretien d'Ifrane (Maroc) entre le roi Hassan II et le premier ministre israélien de l'époque, M. Shimon Pérès en juillet 1986.

La Syrie avait critiqué durement le Maroc à la suite de cette visite qui, pour elle, constituait "un acte de trahison" et "un défi lancé aux sentiments de la Nation arabe et un mépris de ses droits nationaux". (AFP)

Aviation arabe: vers une caisse commune

L'Organisation des transporteurs aériens arabes (AACO) a annoncé mardi qu'une société pan-arabe de financement allait être mise en place en 1989 afin d'aider les compagnies de la région à financer leurs commandes.

Les pays arabes répondent ainsi au regroupement des grandes compagnies américaines et au prochain défi de l'Europe aérienne sans frontières (1992). Les présidents des compagnies jordaniennes, koweïtiennes et marocaines se sont réunis mardi à Amman avec les représentants de trois banques arabes pour jeter les bases de cette future société. "C'est une expérience unique au monde", a souligné Adli Dajani, Secrétaire général de l'AACO, dans la mesure où la société regroupera les compagnies et les financiers. "Le monde de l'aviation a les yeux tournés vers nous", a-t-il ajouté.

Selon lui, les compagnies arabes ont besoin d'ici dix ans remplacer 150 avions et d'en acquérir 50 pour faire face au gonflement de leur activité. Soit une dépense totale estimée à 10 mil-

liards de dollars dans les dix ans à venir.

"Cela représente une grosse dépense pour l'AACO les compagnies et, constant que les établissements financiers arabes n'avaient pas de secteur aviation, nous avons décidé de créer cette société qui rapprochera les banques et les transporteurs aériens", a ajouté M. Dajani.

Ali Ghandour, président de la Royal Jordanian Airlines, a de son côté estimé que "les compagnies arabes doivent standardiser leur équipement afin d'être plus fortes ensemble et de coopérer dans les domaines de l'entraînement et de la maintenance. La nouvelle société de financement aidera à atteindre ce but".

Selon M. Dajani, treize compagnies arabes, ajoutées aux trois banques citées plus haut, ont déjà manifesté leur intérêt pour cette opération, et la porte est ouverte pour les autres. Une fois que la société sera formée, a-t-il ajouté, elle mettra ses titres sur le marché afin d'attirer une "participation institutionnelle". (d'après J.T.)

Paris: un pas de plus

Le bureau de l'OLP à Paris sera élevé au rang de "délégation générale" de Palestine, sans toutefois, que lui soit accordé le statut diplomatique, a annoncé le jeudi 5 janvier, François Mitterrand. Le chef de l'Etat n'a expliqué que la France ne reconnaissant que les Etats qui disposent d'un territoire, il n'était pas possible d'accorder à l'OLP un tel statut diplomatique et les privilèges, dont l'immunité, qui en découlent.

Mais, a souligné M. Mitterrand, «il n'y a pas de patrie palestinienne aujourd'hui, il y a comme la renaissance d'une nation palestinienne», et l'OLP en proclamant, à Alger, le 15 novembre, un Etat Palestinien, «a modifié la situation de telle manière qu'on ne peut pas ne pas en tenir compte». "Toute novation présuppose la réaffirmation du droit d'Israël à l'existence et à la sécurité, de même que de droit des palestiniens à une patrie", a-t-il encore dit, ajoutant que par ses décisions d'Alger, «l'OLP a rendu possible ce qui se passe

aujourd'hui». «C'est à Israël qu'il importe maintenant de répondre», a poursuivi M. Mitterrand, avant de conclure: «Il faudra bien que les peuples d'Israël et de Palestine cohabitent en tant que voisins».

Interrogé sur l'éventualité d'une rencontre avec le chef de l'OLP, M. Mitterrand a déclaré qu'il ne voyait pas pour quoi il ne discuterait pas avec M. Arafat comme avec n'importe quel responsable d'un peuple dans le monde».

La décision française a suscité la déception de l'ambassadeur d'Israël en France, M. Ovadia Soffer, qui a cependant considéré comme «une bonne chose en soi» que les privilèges diplomatiques ne soient pas accordés à l'OLP. Représentant de l'OLP, M. Ibrahim Souss s'est quant à lui félicité de l'initiative française, qui, selon lui, signifie que la France prend «acte politique» de la proclamation d'un Etat palestinien. Il y voit une "reconnaissance implicite" de cet Etat.

FIGURE

Moshe Arens, le faucon

Moshe Arens, 63 ans, successeur de Shimon Pérès aux Affaires étrangères, fait partie de la fraction "dure" Likoud. Il s'est opposé en 1978 aux accords de Camp David, consacrant la paix israélo-égyptienne. A son nouveau poste, il a d'ores et déjà montré sa détermination à ne pas négocier avec l'OLP. "Il sera difficile de lui arracher des concessions", estime un responsable américain, "mais une fois qu'il a accepté un marché, il tient parole".



Moshe Arens

Né en Lituanie, Arens émigre adolescent aux Etats-Unis, où il sert dans l'armée et suit des études d'ingénieur. Il rejoint Jérusalem peu avant 1947 et participe à la lutte armée juive sous les ordres de Menahem Begin, qui devient son mentor. Puis il poursuit sa carrière d'ingénieur avant d'entrer en politique en 1974, où il est élu à la Knesset sous la bannière du Likoud. Ambassadeur à Washington durant l'invasion israélienne du Liban, il s'y attire des inimitiés du Département d'Etat en l'induisant en erreur sur les objectifs de cette opération militaire. Il recueille en revanche les suffrages du lobby juif, en dépit de son soutien inconditionnel au projet avorté d'aviation de chasse israélienne "Lavi", qui engloûtait

près de 2 milliards de dollars. Arens dirige le ministère israélien de la défense de 1983 à 1984 et fait figure de champion de l'occupation de la Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Puis en 1986, Shmuel lui confie les affaires israélo-arabes. Shlomo Avineri, professeur de sciences politiques à l'université de Jérusalem, prédisait le mois dernier que "le premier sous-secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères serait de "dissuader les Etats-Unis de dialoguer avec l'OLP". Il voyait juste. (d'après Time)

SORTIR

Eve aux cent visages



Une première en Jordanie: cinq femmes (quatre Jordanienues, une Américaine) brosent en six tableaux le comportement de leurs concubines dans des situations de la vie moderne. Pas de références culturelles, mais au contraire une volonté de retrouver l'essence de la psychologie féminine, au-delà des frontières. Un trait commun relie ces bourgeoisies à l'heure du thé, ces femmes de ménage, ces jeunes filles, etc... La mise en scène dépeuple de Susan Darwazeh, des costumes couleur de muraille visent à éliminer les scories pour mieux souligner l'essentiel: l'esprit. Des voix "off" mettent en relief le décalage entre l'expression et la pensée, les contradictions et les difficultés rencontrées par ces femmes "universelles". Deux d'entre elles, qui aiment le même homme sans se l'avouer, essaient ainsi de s'utiliser mutuellement pour atteindre leur but, par des moyens détournés. Conscience et inconscience. Une situation cruelle, que pimente l'effet tragique provoqué par la voix "off". Changement de décor: dans une société verrouillée, une femme se bat contre son entourage et contre sa propre peur pour sortir de son carcan. L'auteur, Haya Hussein s'inspire de situations tirées de Virginia Woolf, Peter Schaffer, Jean Genet ("Les bonnes") et de son propre univers.

"Shades of Eve" (en anglais), mis en scène par Sawwan Darwaza, avec Haya Hussein, Sami Atiyeh, Sima Qubani, Shachita Wijesooriya. Centre Culturel Royal, mardi 17, mercredi 18 et jeudi 19 à 20h00. Billets (2 JD) en vente au RCC.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Inherit the wind

De Stanley Kramer, avec Gene Kelly et Spencer Tracy: 1925. Dans une petite ville du Tennessee, un professeur de biologie est arrêté pour enseigner illégalement la théorie de l'évolution de Darwin. D'où le fameux "procès du singe". Centre américain, jeudi 12 à 19h00

Martin Luther King

A l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la mort du pasteur noir, deux documentaires sur la vie du prix Nobel assassiné le 13 janvier 1968. Centre américain, dimanche 15 à 19h00.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 19h00, 19h30, 19h45, 20h30. Le 12: Mary Poppins. Local hero, Blues, They shoot horses, don't they? Giani. Le 13: Lion in winter, M.A.S.H., Don't look now, Wizard of Oz. Gold. Le 14: Pretty baby, Midnight express, Duet in the sun, Evil under the sun, The war lord. Le 15: Patton: hat for glory, Music lovers, Elephant man,

Hutler, Color of money. Le 16: Notorious, North by Northwest, Elmer Gantry, High noon, Chinatown. Le 17: Raiders of the lost ark, Private Benjamin, Gold rush, Grand hotel, Best years of our lives. Le 18: Serpico. The producers, Gone with the wind. I. Around the world in 80 days, An American in Paris.

Films en version originale. Tel: 609901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis faire à gauche, 300 m.

EXPOSITION

La Défense

Vidéos, photos: quartier neuf de Paris tout en grattes-ciels et en parois de verre. La Défense est devenue un symbole de création architecturale. CCF, jusqu'au 22 janvier

TELEVISION

"Le temps de mourir", avec Anna Karina, Bruno Cremer et Jean Rochefort: un milliardaire recueille une jeune femme tombée de cheval. Amnésique, elle ne peut expliquer comment elle devient un film qui décrit l'assassinat de son hôte. La vie de celui-ci devient un cauchemar. (JTV, vendredi 13 à 17h30).

La langue de Voltaire envahie par les anglicismes

Ortografe simplifiée contre franglais?

"Le pharmacien ne voit personne dans les bureaux; le saxofoniste donne le rythme." Voici le français tel qu'il pourrait être simplifié. Et par la même occasion, mieux apte à se défendre contre l'invasion des anglicismes. A l'origine de cette idée, un syndicat d'enseignants français...

Se familiariser avec les arcanes grammaticaux et phonétiques de la langue française s'apparente à un parcours du combattant pour un étranger. Les Français eux-mêmes ne sont pas épargnés, quand sur les bancs de l'école ils apprennent à écrire leur langue. Le journal L'Ecole part en guerre contre les exceptions à la règle, les lettres muettes et autres accents circonflexes, jugés parasites inutiles de la langue de Voltaire. Cette publication, éditée par un syndicat d'enseignants, a lancé en décembre un sondage sur le thème "faut-il simplifier le français?" Surprise: parmi les réponses renvoyées par des professeurs de français des quatre coins du monde, on relève 1.035 "oui" contre 107 "non".

Le poète Paul Valéry estimait déjà que l'écriture du français "avait malheureusement été codifiée dans son absurdité par les pédants du 17ème siècle (l'Académie française, NDR)", ajoutant qu'"en France, celui qui écrit les mots comme ils se prononcent est considéré comme inférieur à celui qui les écrit tels qu'ils ne sont pas prononcés". Le français écrit, en effet, s'est très peu modifié depuis 1832,

lorsque Louis Philippe obligea son administration à se conformer aux règles d'orthographe édictées par l'Académie française. Depuis, les velléités de réformes sont pour la plupart restées lettres mortes. Et l'Académie française n'a procédé qu'à quelques aménagements mineurs, autorisant par exemple en 1976 à écrire oignon "ognon". Du reste, personne ne le sait.

Mystères

Selon les professeurs qui ont écrit à L'Ecole, une simplification du français écrit lui donnerait plus de chances de résister à l'invasion des anglicismes. "Il est

décourageant, pour ceux qui font l'apprentissage d'une langue, d'apprendre une règle pour découvrir ensuite que les exceptions la rendent toute relative." Prenons par exemple le cas des doubles consonnes, calvaire des écoliers français: pourquoi tradition et fonction donnent-ils les adjectifs traditionnel et fonctionnel, avec deux "n"? Pourquoi rationnalité, qui n'en prend qu'un, le double quand il se mue en rationnel — avec deux "r"...

L'Ecole cite pêle-mêle les accents saugrenus, les "x" pluriels et les "ph", fourvoyeurs de la phonétique. Si le "o" de trône et

de zone se prononcent de la même façon, pourquoi le premier porte-t-il un chapeau? De quel droit les choux et les cailloux font-ils la nique aux fous et aux minous? Quelles sont ces fraises dans nos phrases? Le Journal, qui en perd son latin, propose encore la simplification des mots de racine grecque, comme rythme, qui pourrait s'écrire "ritme".

Certains enseignants soulignent que d'autres langues latines, telles que l'espagnol, l'italien ou le roumain ont été "nettoyées" de la sorte, sans que le sens des mots ou leurs nuances aient en souffrir.

Dans le camp adverse, on crie

Voyagiste, machouillon et saucipain

Devant l'invasion du "franglais", le Commissariat général de la langue française publie régulièrement un "dictionnaire des néologismes officiels", indiquant les mots à proscrire et ceux inventés pour désigner des objets et concepts nouveaux. En voici quelques exemples, tirés de l'édition 1989:

Anglicismes pros crits: scoop (dire exclusivité), one-man-show (spectacle solo), dinghy (canot pneumatique), duty-free shop (boutique franchise), fast food (prêt-à-manger), jumbo jet (avion gros porteur), mailing (publipostage), ferry (navire transporteur), sponsor (patronage), walkman (balladeur), bulldozer (bouteur), tour-operator

(voyagiste), hit-parade (palmarès), marketing (mercator), escalator (escalier mécanique), cameraman (cadreur), etc...

Mots étrangers adoptés: sandwich, spaghetti, blue-jean, short, couscous, drugstore, hall, salami, chorizo, etc... Les anglicismes, sanctionnés certes l'influence culturelle anglo-saxonne, mais aussi les lacunes et retards français dans certains domaines scientifiques. Qui invente nomme. Ainsi, en matière de physique de l'atmosphère, le Commissariat à la langue française prédit qu'il n'y aura bientôt plus de termes français. Dans d'autres secteurs en revanche, ce sont les Anglo-saxons qui

adoptent le nom d'une invention française. Comme la télématique, qui devient "telematic". Mais les exemples n'abondent pas...

Si les créations de la langue française citées ci-dessus ont quelques chances de s'imposer face aux anglicismes, parce que facilement mémorisables, d'autres autour du mal à percer, car le terme anglais est plus simple. Comment par exemple remplacer video clip par "bande vidéo promotionnelle", kit par "prêt-à-monter"? Il existe même des mots anglais pour lesquels les commissions de terminologie n'ont pas trouvé d'équivalent. Tels baby-sitter (selon le dictionnaire Robert, "personne qui,

moyennant rétribution, garde à la demande de jeunes enfants en l'absence de leurs parents"...), charter ("avion affrété pour un vol particulier"), hold-up ("vol à main armée dans un lieu public"), look ("aspect physique volontairement étudié").

Face à ces casse-têtes, le Commissariat a même fait appel à l'imagination d'une "académie" d'enfants dans une émission télévisée. Certains d'entre eux ont su trouver les mots qui font mouche. "Auto-maison" pour camping-car, "machouillon" pour chewing-gum et un succulent "sancipain" pour hot-dog. Qui dit mieux? (F.D. d'après Le Monde)

Madame Tussaud's — beyond wax, into the space age

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — A big toy leopard in a pink tutu sits near the desk of Madame Tussaud's chief executive, but it isn't made of the stuff that attracts 2.5 million visitors a year.

Michael Herbert's office-mate is a fibreglass leftover from a children's exhibit, and a sign of the company's future. For Tussauds isn't just into wax anymore. The company, whose wax-works were brought from Paris to London 186 years ago by the enterprising Madame, has bought a medieval castle and a set of caves, owns one theme park and plans to build another for \$91 million. It's also delving into non-wax Disney-style animated figures.

Tussauds hasn't forsaken its roots. Its wax statues pop up at new ventures and the original exhibition has been London's top fee-paying tourist site for two years.

To a celebrity, few accolades are greater than an invitation to pose for a Tussaud effigy, and to the public, it's a true sign of the passage of time when a wax statue gets taken to the storeroom.

Its chamber of horrors, with its freshly guillotined heads and disembowelled Jack the Ripper victims, have given generations of children sleepless nights.

"Madame Tussaud's is something we rather crudely say you would visit three times in your life: as a child, a parent and perhaps a grandparent," says Herbert, a gentle man who clearly delights in the fun side to his

business, like his leopard.

"Wax exhibitions need a turnover of people," he said in an interview, noting that more than half of Madame Tussaud's visitors come from abroad. "Therefore it's no use going to set up a wax exhibition in somewhere like Cleveland, Ohio, or even Chicago."

Marie Tussaud, an accomplished sculptress in Paris, inherited the waxworks from the uncle who trained her. She had made deathmasks of guillotine victims including Marie Antoinette, but finding post-revolutionary France too chaotic for business, she moved to England in 1802.

A marketing whiz in her time, she guaranteed new audiences for the waxworks by touring Britain for 33 years before settling in London at age 74. Here she displayed her last work — a scowling self-portrait in spectacles and black bonnet which is among the 350 figures presently on display in the permanent exhibit on the Marylebone road.

After her death, the exhibit grew somewhat old-fashioned, Herbert said, but tourism boosted revenue in the 1960s and it has flourished in recent years with stepped-up marketing.

Tussauds — the company as opposed to Madame Tussaud's, the waxworks — first expanded in 1970 with an exhibition in Amsterdam that has been so successful the company hopes to move to a bigger site.

It bought the woolley hole caves in western England, a popular tourist spot, in 1973 and was attempting to buy the Chessington zoo, now the Chessington World of Adventures, in 1978

when its owner, the Pearson Plc conglomerate, struck back by buying Tussauds.

Soon after, Tussauds bought 13th-century Warwick castle, for then \$2.7 million, and has installed a startlingly lifelike exhibit recreating with wax figures a typical 19th-century royal weekend.

Tussauds' planned amusement park at Woburn Abbey, the 18th-century stately home of the Duke of Bedford, would be impossible without Pearson's backing, says Herbert, who is a director of a U.S. theme park company and sees great potential in this sector in Britain.

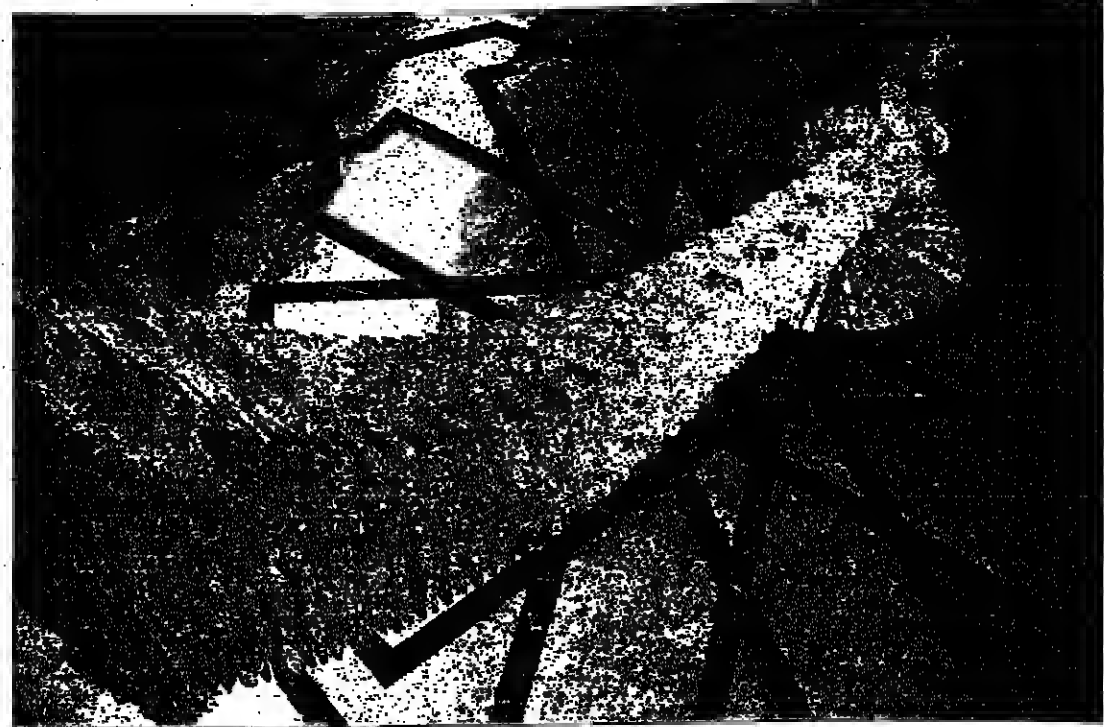
"After all, we're still a very small company, with turnover of \$55 million," he said. "To do this alone would really be sticking your neck out."

Expansions aside, Tussauds vows never to abandon wax. But the old standbys, which cost an average of \$18,000 apiece, are being improved and paired with new-fangled figures.

Next year, Tussauds will open a London exhibition of both wax and non-wax animated figures representing rock stars.

"Rock circus" continues the Disney-style animation work begun with an exhibition near Windsor Castle, on the outskirts of London, called "Royalty and Empire," which recreates a scene from Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations in 1897.

"Static wax figures are something we've been famous for more than 180 years," says spokeswoman Juliet Simpkins. "What we're doing (with animation) is enhancing the illusion."



GRAND

COUTURIER: Creations by Saudi Arabia's Adnan Akbar, the Arab designer who won the Triumph prize for elegance Dec. 22, 1987 in Jeddah. Previously French fashion designers Yves Saint-Laurent and Christian Dior were awarded this prize.

Adnan Akbar (40), (below right), with his wife and their children in Jeddah.

(Sygma photos)



The Americanisation of Indonesia's elite

By Bill Tarrant
Reuters

JAKARTA — Indonesia's newly-emerging middle class is tuning in to "L.A. law" and slick advertising with the return of commercial television to the traditionalist country after a seven-year break.

The government in 1981 banned advertising on the country's only television station, state-run TVRI, saying it was creating pernicious consumerism in a country with a per capita income of about \$450 a year.

Now a new subscription television station, RCTI, has been given a 20-year licence that allows it to broadcast commercials along with the American-style diet it serves up to Jakarta's elite.

"Subscription television gets around the problem of poor people watching ads for Mercedes

Benz cars and getting envious about the rich," said one advertising executive.

RCTI, directed and partly owned by President Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmojo, charges \$18 a month for its range of sport, music, cartoons, nightly movies and top-rated American series such as "L.A. law."

It is allowed to broadcast only in the Jakarta area but the government has said it might grant licences for commercial television in six other cities if the new station is a success.

RCTI's scrambled signal is decoded by a device in the subscriber's home. All programmes are in English but the station will begin dubbing and sub-titling next year when it finishes an \$85-million studio.

"This is the last major non-communist capital without a com-

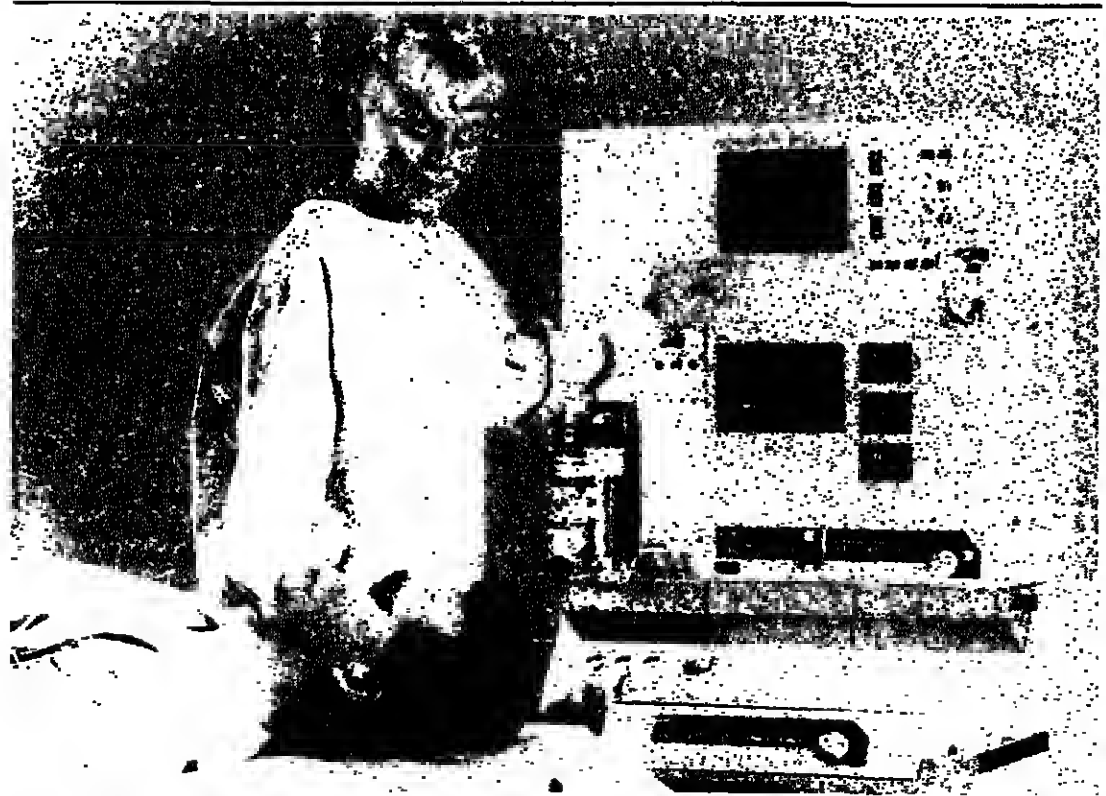
mercial advertising station," said general manager Peter Langlois in an interview.

The station has so far signed up 50,000 subscribers and eventually hopes to have 140,000 — about two per cent of the capital's population.

TVRI will take a quarter of subscriber revenue in addition to getting about \$650,000 a year for selling news to the station. Langlois, former manager of an NBC station in Sacramento, California, describes the relationship as "more partnership than competitor."

Commercial television is already having a big impact on the fledgling advertising and film industry.

RCTI expects to book at least half the estimated total of \$125 million spent on advertising in Indonesia in 1987.



(Photo: INP/Dräger)

FEWER RISKS: "Cicero" is the name given to this new anaesthesia system from the Federal Republic of Germany. Anaesthetics technology in general has been coordinated in accordance with the most modern aspects. Approval has been applied for.

'Cicero' makes operations easier

LUBECK (INP) — The north German firm — Drägerwerk in Lübeck has developed a future-oriented anaesthetic respiration unit. Anaesthesia in medicine is almost as old as the history of medicine itself. Nonetheless, it is still a "sensitive key area" during an operation — especially on account of human failure and overworked staff.

The Drägerwerk AG has now presented a complete "integrated system working place for the anaesthetist." The latest scientific recognitions and technologies have contributed to this modern project — experience and advice from more than one thousand doctors asked in Europe, Asia and America.

"Cicero" is the name given to the unit from the Federal Republic of Germany, which incorporates all the components usually required for carrying out anaesthesia such as gas dosage and type

of anaesthetic, respiration unit and communication controller. The new unit is suitable for grown-ups, children and babies. A special feature is the alarm and data management system. This enables critical changes to be identified more rapidly so that they can be remedied. Exhausting monitoring duties and routine recordings are dispersed with for the doctor and the operating staff.

In a modern clinic, the working place of the anaesthetist still comprises a combination of various units. Up to 50 cables and tubes connect the patient with the units and the various systems with one another. This "confusion" increasingly calls for the attention of the doctor and nurse. As a result, handling errors are frequently unavoidable. Thanks to "Cicero," the Lübeck manufacturers say, attention can be given to what is really essential: with a

load taken off the doctor and his assistants, the patient is once again at the centre of things. Risks are considerably cut down on.

(IN-Press)

<p>RESTAURANT CHINA</p> <p>The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan</p> <p>1st Circle Jabal Amman, near Ahllyah Girls School</p> <p>Take away is available</p> <p>Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30-Midnight</p> <p>Tel. 638968</p>	<p>慕堂餐廳</p> <p>MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant</p> <p>The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.</p> <p>Chinese Flaming pot is available</p> <p>Take away available</p> <p>Open daily 12:00 - 15:30 18:00 - 23:30</p> <p>Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge Amman, Jordan</p> <p>Tel: 661922</p>	<p>CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket</p> <p>Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only</p> <p>Tel: 818214</p> <p>Come and taste our specialties</p> <p>Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight</p>	<p>CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>TAIWAN TOURISMO</p> <p>Authentic Chinese Food</p> <p>Korean Bar-B-Q</p> <p>Charcoal Flaming Pot</p> <p>Take-away service</p> <p>Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight</p> <p>Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akilah Hospital</p> <p>Tel: 641093</p>	<p>Kashmiri Restaurant</p> <p>FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>Special Executive Luncheons</p> <p>Take away service available</p> <p>Open Daily 12:30 - 3:30 pm 7:30 - 11:30 pm</p> <p>After the Holiday Inn hotel Towards 3rd circle</p> <p>Tel. 659519 659520</p>
<p>The First Class Hotel in Amman</p> <p>that has a kitchenette in every room.</p> <p>DAROTEL</p> <p>For Residents and Businessmen</p>	<p>To advertise in this section</p> <p>Call 667171-6 670141-4 ext. 223</p>	<p>EVERY DAY</p> <p>PEOPLE WHO NEED MAINTENANCE SERVICES CALL US</p> <p>Electrolux</p> <p>P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN</p> <p>Tel. 604671</p>	<p>For all your:</p> <p>Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Customs Clearance, Door-to-door Service, Ticketing and Reservation needs,</p> <p>please call:</p> <p>AMIN KAWAR & SONS</p> <p>Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street, Shmeisani</p> <p>P.O. Box 7806 Amman, Jordan</p> <p>Tel: 604676, 604696</p>	

<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>DIRTY DANCING</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 675571</p> <p>NUJUM</p> <p>FULL METAL JACKET</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>MY TUTOR</p> <p>Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30</p>
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Nibbling at the edges of the harvest of death

By David Storey
Reuters

BANGKOK — The pilot held the helicopter steady a few feet above the ground, the blast of its rotors whipping the fronds of a banana tree and fuzzy-ended stalks of giant pumpkins into a frenzy.

Eight men carrying assault rifles leapt from the cabin, scattering into the undergrowth on the steep hillside, then, as the helicopter drew away, made swiftly for a small patch of flowers nearby.

They wreaked havoc, slashing at the flowers with sticks and slicing off their bulbous seed pods with hunting knives.

It's open season on opium poppies in Thailand.

The latest poppy-busting expedition was near this village in Loei province, within 20 kilometres of the border with Laos and on the edge of the golden triangle, the biggest single source for the world's opium and its heroin derivative.

Elsewhere in northern Thailand, particularly in the Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces bordering Burma, the paramilitary border patrol police and other forces are scouring wooded ridges and limestone escarpments during this prime growing season.

Although clashes with growers are rare, the troops go armed because guns are still part of everyday life in these hilly areas and the big men behind the trade can be ruthless in protecting their investments.

The mission of destruction, coupled with a campaign of providing profitable replacement crops like cabbage or coffee, has been a success in Thailand.

Helped by personal intervention from the Thai royal family and aid from abroad, substitution

projects have mushroomed in the hills and domestic opium production has fallen from 200 tonnes in a decade.

But raids like those in Loei province, even coupled with record seizures of heroin crossing Thailand last year, are only nibbling at the fringes of production in the golden triangle — an area including parts of Burma, Laos and Thailand — where weather conditions were excellent in 1988.

In the context of the region Thailand has become, in the words of one narcotics agent, a sideshow. "It is important for what goes on around it and what goes through it," he said.

With political chaos and the withdrawal of international co-operation eliminating controls on opium growth in Burma, and little effort to crack down on growers in communist Laos, the flow to the addict's pock-marked arm is expected to be as big as ever this year.

Burma's military rulers last year threw the onus of responsibility on the United States, which suspended its anti-narcotics programme as well as other aid after the army took over in a bloody coup in September.

"Opium from the golden triangle will surely spread out throughout the world," Burma's working people's daily newspaper said. "For Burma it is not our business what happens once it goes out. We can only look on with folded arms."

As well as the halt in the U.S. programme, which provided planes to spray poison on poppies in Burma's north-eastern Shan and Kachin states, narcotics agents say the political upheavals left the indigenous police forces in chaos.

Top officers, including the commander of the narcotics un-

its, were replaced, leaving a lack of skill and experience.

Latest available Burmese official reports said 40,000 out of 70,000 acres of poppies were destroyed in the 1986-87 opium production season.

International experts in Bangkok say this appeared a very high estimate. They said at least 1,000 tonnes of raw opium was produced in Burma that year, with the Burma Communist Party and Shan state insurgents under warlord Khun Sa producing and refining the bulk of it.

And this year?

"The growing conditions are as good as we have seen in many years. We have to assume the army is less involved in eradication work than in previous years, if they're involved at all," said one international agent.

"We assume it's going to be a very handsome crop," said the official, who declined to be identified.

He said there could be an increase of as much as 20 per cent in the flow of heroin from the region because of the lack of controls in Burma. But, as with all figures on the illicit opium trade, this was no more than an educated guess.

Although the United States last year openly accused Laotian officials of involvement in opium production, 1989 began on a more optimistic note. A U.S. team visited Vientiane in the first week of January promising aid to eradicate opium growth as part of a general improvement in relations between Washington and Indochina.

The United Nations fund for drug abuse control is also hoping to establish its first programme in Laos since the late 1970s, aimed at introducing other profitable crops to hill tribes now growing opium.



Azraq oasis

The slow death of a desert oasis

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AZRAQ — Kicking up dust, buffalo canter through low brush at this wetland oasis in Jordan's eastern desert, once a world-famous sanctuary for migrant birds.

The buffalo, descended from domestic animals, and scores of wild horses, roam the shrinking marshes, but few birds now stop at Azraq en route between Europe and Africa.

According to Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the oasis is dying because of over-pumping of water to meet Amman's growing demand.

Unless this is curbed, Azraq, 90 kilometres east of the capital, may become an early casualty of Jordan's looming water crisis, say Muasher and other experts.

"By 2005 our renewable water resources will be running out," said Elias Salameh, head of Jordan University's Water Research Centre. "New supplies will have to come from fossil (non-replenishable) water or non-conventional sources like desalination or recycling."

Twenty years ago Azraq's central swamp covered 10 square kilometres and nearby areas were sometimes flooded, providing a rich habitat for fish, waterfowl and vegetation.

Duck-bunters used to wade through the water and crouch in metal hides bedded in concrete. Now the rusting hides stick forlornly from dried-up lake beds that shimmer in the haze.

"The society will do what it can to keep Azraq alive until Amman finds other water sources," Muasher said. "We are trying to keep the vegetation alive so that we don't lose the species."

Only 10 years ago the pools, marshes, water meadows and silt dunes of the Azraq wetland reserve harboured about 300 bird species, over half of them migrants.

Some wintered there and others bred among its giant reeds, prickly sea rush and tamarisk bushes, along with snakes, frogs, fish and lizards. Asiatic jackals, red fox, wolves and striped hyenas are still seen, though wild boar have vanished.

Experts say overpumping has

lowered the water table by three metres in the past three years in some of the Jordan Water Authority's 15 wells, and some springs have dried up completely.

"The Azraq area discharges 15 to 16 million cubic metres of water a year. The water authority is pumping this amount and local farmers are using another six million for irrigation and fishponds," said Omar Rimawi, a Jordan University hydrologist.

The Azraq oasis is part of a 13,000-square-kilometre basin, fed by water filtering underground from the Jebel Ad-Druze mountains in southern Syria.

Rimawi said the purest water lies in a Basalt aquifer. A few kilometres away are the Sabkha salt flats, used for salt production.

"Overpumping risks virtually irreversible seepage of saline water from Sabkha to the Basalt aquifer and the whole water column," Rimawi said.

Salameh said Azraq's safe yield of drinking water was 10 to 12 million cubic metres a year. "If pumping goes on as now, the pools will dry up completely in five years."



Azraq castle

The government formed a committee 18 months ago to try to halve the amount pumped from the area and Muasher said it had ordered the closure of several unlicensed wells. The European Community is funding an investigation of Azraq aquifers.

But few other sources are readily available to quench the thirst of Amman's fast-growing population of over a million.

Rimawi said rationing last summer showed consumption had already exceeded the city's supply. "Jordan is on the edge of a crisis. By the end of the century it will be a big problem."

Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakhan said this month water potential would have to be increased by at least 10 per cent.

This year Jordan hopes to start work on damming the Yarmouk River, its only major untapped surface water resource. The long-planned Wadiah (unity) Dam, straddling the border with Syria, should provide 50 million cubic metres of water a year for Amman and 20 million for the northern town of Irbid.

A Western development expert, who asked not to be named, said this would ease but not solve the problem. He praised Jordan for bringing piped water to more than 80 per cent of its people but said government subsidies were encouraging waste, especially among Jordan Valley farmers.

"The Jordan Valley is a major development success, but they don't use water efficiently. There's a social and cultural bias against charging farmers an economic price for water," he said.

Jordan Valley Authority Director Mohammed Beni Hani said farmers paid about 25 per cent of the system's running cost but denied they were excessive consumers.

He said a pressurised closed-pipe system to replace open canals would be complete by 1995 and the authority was trying to operate, maintain and manage existing systems better.

Experts say much water is lost in Amman's leaky distribution network but household water consumption is lower than in neighbouring Arab capitals and far below Western levels.

A blow to the Third World — a resource drain

The World Bank's sobering new analysis of the distressful debt situation in the developing world has underscored the need for global action to confront the issue.

By Nissem Abdallah

WASHINGTON — The non-oil industrial countries may rejoice at unstable oil prices and optimists may see an imminent turnaround in the world economy, but the developing world has entered a new phase of financial distress that may not be over soon.

The outflow of wealth from the developing to developed countries has reached record levels and may be at least 50 per cent higher in the current year than in previous years.

This emerged from recent statistics released by World Bank. The speed and magnitude of the outflow of wealth from the developing countries in recent years, said the bank, "represents a new and significant constraint on their expansion."

Coupled with rising interest rates and the not-so-distant threat of a trade war involving the United States, Japan, Europe and the rest of the world, the resource drain is a serious blow to the Third World. In simple terms, it means that the poorer developing countries will have to forget about catching up with the rest of the world on growth and improvement of living standards.

The World Bank estimates that in 1988, the 17 most indebted countries would have given rich countries and multinational leading institutions \$31.10 billion more than they receive — three times the 1983 figure. The reversal is particularly dismaying because it indicates that one of the most celebrated attempts to defuse the debt crisis, the Baker Plan simply has not worked.

The Baker Plan assured developing countries of increased lending on easier terms from both multinational government institutions and private banks. In return it required debtors to turn state-owned enterprises over to the private sector, to deregulate their economies and to encourage faster growth. In actual practice, private banks reduced rather than raised their lending and many of the debtor states found the sale of government enterprises to private industry as politically unacceptable.

Now the rising clamour is for the Baker Plan to be modified to give banks greater incentives to lend and the developing countries relief on outstanding debts. Why? An increasing number of economists are persuaded that the debt crisis represents a major risk

to global stability.

President-elect George Bush recently acknowledged the political dimension of the Third World's \$1,300 billion debt. In revising the U.S. debt policy, he said, "not just the Treasury (Department), but our national security people" would be involved too. But exactly how far the United States can go in addressing the problem remains moot.

Within the administration, U.S. policy towards the Third World has been mostly identified with James Baker, the former Treasury Secretary and Bush's choice for Secretary of State. That policy, particularly its free-market theme, is expected to continue.

But debt resolution is not all about U.S. policy. As the World Bank study showed, the United States is only one of several major recipients of Third World outflows in loan payments and other payments. The "whole new look" of the United States policy towards developing countries, promised by Bush, may not be effective unless it is replicated in other rich countries.

Several countries, Japan and West Germany in particular, are known to be sympathetic to the Third World's plight. How their sympathy translates into action remains a different matter.

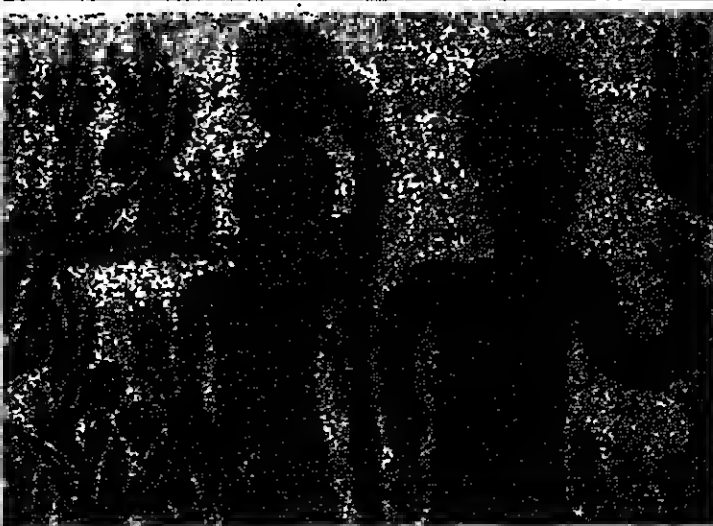
Total net Third World payments to industrialised countries are estimated at \$43 billion, up from \$38.10 billion in 1987. When the debt crisis erupted in 1982, developing countries were taking in \$18.20 billion more than they paid out. Now, of course, their debt has almost doubled — to \$1.32 trillion.

The massive transfer of resources from poor to rich countries, which are part of the effort to service that debt, is becoming a major political issue in the Third World. This was acknowledged in the World Bank reports, which

observes that "the immense uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the debt crisis, and, in some countries, the sheer size of the debt relative to economic capacity are daunting to all investors, internal and external."

About two-thirds of the total Third World debt is held by private lenders, including banks in the United States, Japan and Western Europe. The other one-third is owed to governments and

to such government-owned lending institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). So the room for manoeuvre — debt forgiveness, rescheduling or new loans — is there. It now remains up to the powers that be to use that opportunity to address the monumental problem. — Academic File.



A detail of Garia Mahmoud's "Peasants,"

By Michael Gibson
International Herald Tribune

CAIRO — Brightly coloured batik paintings decorate the foyer of the new Cairo Opera house while large tapestries from the same workshop, in an idiom one would hardly expect to find in contemporary work, hang in the ball of one of the city's leading hotels.

This delightful consensus in choices made by a government commission and by the decorators of a major hotel chain, is but one sign of the prestige enjoyed here by the little group of craftsmen at the Ramses Wissa Wassef school in the village of Harrania on the outskirts of Cairo.

But their prestige is not limited to Egypt. The utopian experiment initiated 45 years ago by the architect Ramses Wissa Wassef has achieved a worldwide reputation, thanks to countless exhibitions and sales to museums in Europe and the United States.

Ramses Wissa Wassef, was born in Cairo in 1911, the son of a wealthy Coptic family. His father was a leader in parliament and a celebrated lawyer. Ramses studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he significantly submitted a project on rural architecture in Egypt ("The Potter's House on the Nile").

From the outset he showed a keen interest in the uneasy situation of traditional architecture and crafts in an increasingly industrial society. As an architect, he devoted his life to building with mud blocks, using traditional Egyptian techniques and forms. For this work, he posthumously received the Aga Khan Award in 1983.

Wissa Wassef's lifelong adventure with weaving began in 1941, when he was commissioned to build a school using traditional materials in old Cairo, near the remains of the city's Roman fortress. He persuaded the authorities to let him teach weaving after hours to children enrolled at the school. This interest in the work of children first appeared when he realised that adult craftsmen all tended to repeat themselves — they no longer had the capacity to be inventive. This, he decided, must be because their

creative faculties were stunted at one stage.

Artistic potential

One of his basic convictions was that every human being has artistic potential, though it may be perverted or destroyed by education. As it happened, the results of this first adventure were so exciting that he decided to take it a step further. Three of the children stayed with him and formed the nucleus of a teaching staff when the school in Harrania was created in 1951. His family fortune was sufficient to allow him to buy land there and build a school of traditional design.

The way this school was started is remarkable in itself. Wissa Wassef and his wife, Sophie, went on frequent visits to Harrania, then an isolated village on the edge of a canal within sight of the Giza pyramids. Over a period of weeks, they sat down under a tree, struck up conversations and played games with the village children.

School hours are short in Egypt, there being too few teachers, and Ramses and Sophie were obviously both charming and purposeful as they sat in apparent idleness beneath their tree. When a trusting relationship had been established, they asked the children whether they wouldn't like to learn how to weave.

A dozen children, mostly girls, showed an interest and began working regularly. Wissa Wassef dealt directly with the children rather than with their families. When they completed a tapestry they were paid for it. This was a new situation for the children and gave them a tremendous sense of pride. The first time the 12 children were paid they paraded through the village singing an improvised song boasting of their achievement. Later they asked Wissa Wassef to keep the money for them, to invest it in gold and, as they grew up, they used it to build their own mud brick houses when they got married.

It was always a happy venture, Sophie Wissa Wassef says today, though it required great patience. It also required exceptional pedagogical skills and tact. Wissa

A utopian adventure

Wassef was careful not to show the children any art. Instead he would take them on excursions to observe plants and wildlife along the banks of the Nile, into the desert or to the shore near Alexandria. This was intended to develop their own perception of things.

His daughter Yoanna remembers seeing a group of children off at the station. They were going to take the two-hour train ride to Alexandria and at the moment of boarding the train all the girls suddenly burst into tears: "We are going to the end of the earth!" they wailed. Since then, of course, their perception of the size of the world has drastically changed — and Cairo has all but enveloped Harrania as its population grew to its present 15 million.

Bible stories

Wissa Wassef also took care to tell many stories, legends and narratives from the Bible, which then served for inspiration for tapestries. He took pains to stimulate children who were inclined to copy what others were doing. He never criticised their work, though financial reward varied according to certain criteria of quality that had been established.

What astounds visitors is that the children (and the weavers who are now adults), do not work from a drawing but create their design directly on the loom — even though they cannot see the whole of the work, since the part that has been completed gradually disappears behind the loom. To Wissa Wassef this was a particularly important innovation, since it avoided the divorce of creation and execution proper. The young weavers developed their own terminology, and one significant concept was that of "melody" — a reference to patterns and their variations. Also important is that all the wool was dyed with plants grown in the garden.

The children are predominantly Muslim. One striking difference is apparent between the

work of city-dwelling Coptic Christians, who tend to represent their subjects in a more abstract and schematic way, and the rural Muslims, who show a keen sense of naturalistic observation, reversing the stereotypes about Muslim culture's resistance to representation.

Second generation

Wissa Wassef died of a heart attack in 1974. His death was a tremendous shock to all concerned, including the young weavers, many of them then approaching 30. But Sophie and her two daughters, Yoanna and Suzanne, decided to carry on and invited young people interested in weaving to make themselves known. About a hundred applied, but only 40 could be accepted.

Children of this "second generation" were encouraged to find an original form of their own and the stylistic difference is perceptible in subtler shades of colour and a greater mastery of form at an early age. The young generation benefitted from the groundbreaking technical work of their elders and were thus free to devote more energy to the aesthetic aspects.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the enterprise, after close to 50 years, is the way in which the children have developed into mature craftsmen. The works done during the first years had some of the universal characteristics of children's drawings. In subsequent years they still contained simplifications of forms, as can be found in folk weaving of various periods. But the work done in the '80s by weavers now at the height of their maturity has achieved a style that is the result of a long ripening.

Weavers like Mohammed Moussa, Garia Mahmoud and Ashour Messelbi, all of them in their 40s, have begun producing large landscape works which can take them a full year to weave and which have the balance of a mature style.

Museum

Sophie Wissa Wassef is in the process of setting up a museum of tapestries from the Wissa Wassef School in a former farmhouse — another beautiful building designed by her husband. It will not be a public museum with regular hours because she and her daughters do not have the time nor the means for this. But those who drop by to buy tapestries, batik or ceramic ware can always ask to see it.

It promises to be a beautiful monument to the life-work of a number of people — carried out with extraordinary forbearance and patience.

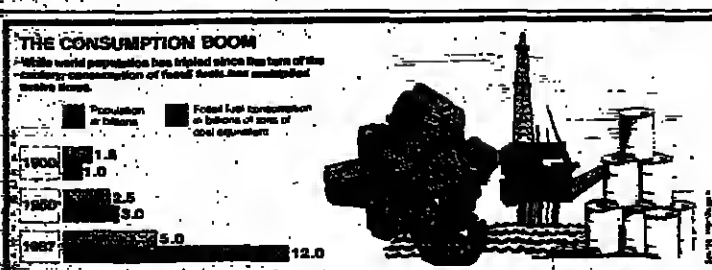
"It has been a continuous flow," says Sophie Wissa Wassef as she walks among the tapestries beneath the gently sloping domes. "It has taken time." One senses that there are so many lives summed up here. There is Fayek Nicolas, one of their first pupils, who drowned tragically at the age of 22. There are others who have been seared by madness. And others still who have serenely matured.

One big tapestry by Mohammed Moussa shows the whole setting of the school with all its buildings nestled among the palm trees. "Mohammed came to see me one day," says Sophie, "asking me to give him a subject. I pointed out that all the trees in our tapestries were always shown from below. Why not show them from above for once?" Mohammed's view of Harrania is one you get from the terrace of Sophie's house. It shows it glowing in the dusty desert air at sunset. Bright birds are flying past against the darkening sky.

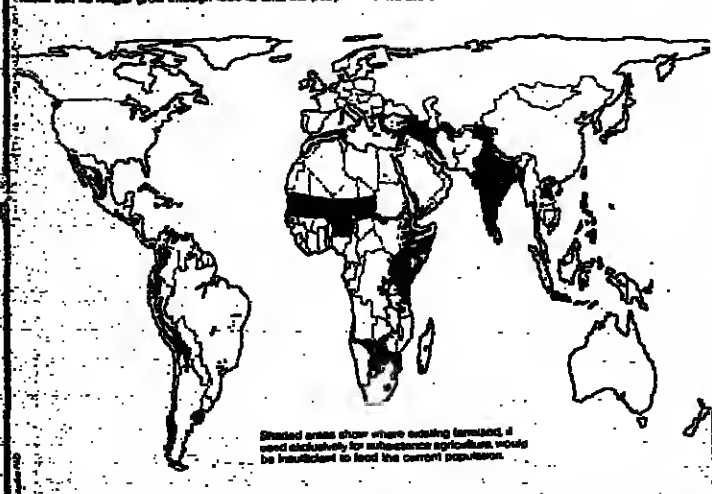
"It has taken time," Sophie Wissa Wassef repeats, and as she speaks she radiates the warmth of someone who has found fulfilment in her life task. "Time has been the most important ingredient of this experiment." And listening to her, one senses that time and patience are the precious commodities that people living in the urgent vortex of the industrial world cannot afford to give.



"Antelopes," by Fawzi Mohammed



THUNDER ZONES



POPULATION AND WORLD RESOURCES: "One billion people are now being added to the human race every twelve years," says the 1988 State of World Population report. But we are consuming world resources even faster than population is growing.

Economists predict gradual rise in yen's role

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar's predominance in global financial dealings is falling as growing economic interdependence within Asia and other regions increases reliance on the Japanese yen and other currencies, economists said Tuesday.

The yen may not replace the dollar as the international official reserve currency, but trends point to greater use of the yen and Deutsche mark and a commensurate decline in the dollar's importance, David Hale, chief economist of Kemper Financial Services Inc., said.

"There are very compelling arguments why the yen should become an important international reserve asset," Hale said. "There is a tremendous mismatch between the yen's importance and the role it plays in the world economy."

Japan's \$3 trillion gross national product in 1988, the \$4 trillion capitalisation of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and international bank

assets estimated by the Bank of International Settlements at \$625.8 billion — compared to U.S. bank assets of \$492 billion — are evidence of the dramatic growth in Japan's relative economic power, Hale said.

The emergence of Asia as a major economic growth region is one reason for the dollar's declining importance as a foreign reserve currency, said economists attending a conference entitled "Task Force on Pacific Rim Strategies."

Trade within the Asian region is growing so quickly that it will soon overtake trans-Pacific trade, said Takashi Hosomi, chairman of NLI Research and former finance ministry adviser.

"Trade volume in East Asia totalled \$84 billion in 1987 and it is growing faster than trans-Pacific trade, which totalled \$104 billion," Hosomi said.

Japanese banks are increasingly using the yen in international lending — their external yen-denominated loans are estimated at 15 trillion yen (\$104 billion), Hale said.

Japan is the largest lender to a number of Asian countries, and yen loans account for 30 per cent of Malaysia's and Indonesia's foreign debt and 40 per cent of Thailand's, he said.

Growing overseas direct investment by Japanese firms in Asia is also expanding the yen's zone of influence.

"It would be logical to expect in the 1990s a regional economic bloc to emerge around Japan," Hale said.

Economists attending the conference predicted that changes in the relative importance of the yen

and the dollar would be gradual.

"I don't think the yen will take the position of the dollar, but will function to supplement the dollar," said Yasuo Kanazaki, executive vice president of Nikko Securities Co.

Instead, a number of currencies may be used.

"The staggering growth in the volume of international capital flows makes it much more difficult for a single currency to play such a significant role as in the past," said Lawrence Summers, economics professor at Harvard University.

"I think in the future there will be no reserve currency as we have known it in the past," said Tone Grant, a member of the board of directors of the Futures Industry Association.

At the end of 1987, the dollar accounted for 67 per cent of official worldwide foreign exchange reserves, down from 70 to 80 per cent in the 1970s, the

International Monetary Fund says.

The yen accounted for seven per cent of world official reserves and the Deutsche mark for 14.7 per cent.

The pound sterling, which before World War I accounted for 38 per cent of official reserves, now accounts for 2.6 per cent.

"The yen is likely to reach 14 to 15 per cent (of worldwide official reserves) by the mid-1990s," Hale said.

But a number of factors limit the yen's viability as a reserve currency, including limits on the number of investment opportunities in Japan's financial markets and exchange rate volatility, which discourages the use of yen-denominated contracts in foreign trade, Hale said.

More than 35 per cent of Japan's export contracts are yen-denominated, up from 17.5 per cent in 1975, and nearly 10 per

cent of its import contracts are yen-denominated, up from less than one per cent in 1975, he said.

But in Britain and West Germany, 80 per cent of their exports and 40 per cent of their imports are denominated in their own currencies, Hale said.

The dollar "allows better control of risks," said Makoto Utsumi, director general of the finance ministry's international finance bureau. He noted that there was no particular reason not to use the dollar in transactions.

Utsumi and other Japanese officials were unenthusiastic about the yen's potential as a reserve currency, explaining that the dollar is supported by both military and economic power.

"The yen's vulnerability is that Japan's strength lies only in economic power because it lacks a defence capability and natural resources," Hosomi said.

Austerity in China 'hits wrong targets'

PEKING (R) — China said Wednesday that a four-month austerity programme had failed to slow its runaway economy.

The Economic Daily said that industrial output in the fourth quarter surged by 18.3 per cent over the same period last year, the fastest quarterly growth of 1988, despite tough measures introduced in September to slow it down.

"This high-speed growth is wrong for China," the paper said. "It has led to shortages of cash and credit, foreign debt and serious problems in transport."

The State Statistical Bureau said industrial output, though down from more than 20 per cent growth in October, rose at a faster rate in December than in November.

Economists said that the austerity programme was having an effect but it was hitting the wrong targets.

Millions of farmers are getting paid for their produce in IOUs instead of cash which local authorities are spending on new

textile and cigarette factories, despite orders from Peking that farm goods get priority.

Banks have been told they will not get more money from Peking and ordered to make better use of their limited funds — so some have prevented people from withdrawing their money.

The statistical news said banks in Wuhan in the southwest were paying only half of the wages due to workers in some companies, keeping the other half as forced savings, causing great resentment among workers some of whom were unable to meet basic living costs.

Economic Daily said banks in Anhui, central China, were improperly docking up to 50 yuan (\$13.5) a month per worker, in the name of "patriotic savings" or "construction savings," which they could only withdraw months later.

Such practices deterred other people from putting their extra money into banks which desperately needed it, it said.

Central banks again hit dollar

LONDON (R) — Central banks renewed concerted open market sales of the dollars Wednesday trying to stop a potentially disruptive rally by the U.S. currency.

A third straight day of coordinated intervention brought the central banks of the United States, West Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Austria, and The Netherlands into the market selling dollars for Deutsche marks soon after New York trading began.

The dollar had earlier shot to its best in three months, rising above 1.84 marks. It had eased below 1.83 as speculators took profits before the central banks came in and sent it further down to trade just under 1.82.

It is still up about five pence since the start of the year. Wednesday's coordinated action was the banks' biggest show of force since the dollar took off at the start of the new year.

Relatively high U.S. interest rates, which offer a bigger return on many dollar assets, and the prospect that they may have to rise further to dampen inflation in

a strong U.S. economy, are attracting money to dollars.

Interest rates in Britain are also high, attracting funds to the pound, as the British government fights rising inflation. The pound soared to 3.2550 marks, its strongest in more than 2½ years, Wednesday after Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said he was not worried by its appreciation.

The Bank of England sold pounds for marks. Several nations, particularly West Germany, are worried about their inflation as the strong dollar pushes up import bills and about the outflow of funds into the dollar and pound.

Economists say that a hazard is that there might be a competing round of interest rate rises with West Germany possibly going up, too. The Swiss National Bank said Wednesday that it had been tightening liquidity.

A chain reaction of interest rate rises might crimp the expansion of the global economy.

But Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita, who was asked by reporters Wednesday about the risk of that kind of chain reaction, said: "It's impossible. It won't happen."

All eyes were on Washington where Lawson met U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady Tuesday. West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg also sees Brady this week.

One question was whether the bilateral exchanges might lead to an early meeting of finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations to coordinate policy with the incoming Bush administration.

Sumita meanwhile said that central bankers of the United States, Japan and West Germany, who have just held routine talks in Basel, reaffirmed a belief in the need for stable currencies.

Fear of further concerted central bank intervention against the dollar cooled some of the enthusiasm for it Wednesday and some dealers wondered if its latest rally might not be ending.

"There's a feeling the dollar may be overbought for the time

being, and it may be time for a period of consolidation," said Nigel Green, assistant director of foreign exchange at EBC-Amro Bank in London.

Others said that, if U.S. trade figures due next Wednesday are bad, they could hit the dollar.

Meanwhile, the feeling that the Federal Reserve (Fed), the U.S. central bank, favours tighter money was among factors which Tuesday snapped a four-day rally in Wall Street stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 6.25 at 2,193.21.

High interest rates tend to syphon funds out of stocks into interest-bearing assets and to pinch corporate profits.

"Investors are... concluding that the Fed is leaning on the side of tighter monetary policy," Wall Street analyst Hugh Johnson of First Albany said. "That makes you feel edgy owning stocks."

But Tokyo stocks surged to a record with investors increasingly convinced that Japan's new imperial era had shed a "bull" or rising market, brokers said.

Argentines sweat through energy crisis

BUENOS AIRES (R) — It is 6 p.m. and the end of a long, hot working day in the middle of Argentina's summer.

If you live in area A-1, you can take the lift up to your air-conditioned apartment on the 10th floor, fix an ice-cold drink and relax in front of the television.

If you live in D-2, returning home can be a nightmare with a long wait for the train, no lift, no television and no ice in the refrigerator.

But in a few hours the situation could be reversed.

A-1 dwellers will begin to sweat as apartments become stuffy, drinks go warm and television go blank. Across Buenos Aires in D-2, residents will huddle under the blankets as the electricity comes back.

Since the start of an energy

crisis nearly a month ago, Buenos Aires has been divided into cided areas subject to three- to five-hour power cuts on a rota basis, mostly twice daily.

A government-decreed reduction in television broadcasts to four hours every evening has led to a sharp rise in video rentals.

The energy crisis has left most Argentines short of electricity, many thousands without water, and some stuck in lifts. It has also turned the daily drive to work into a nightmare of traffic jams. "Turn out the lights, it's more romantic," says actress Silvia Montanari to those able to see the national television campaign to cut power consumption.

But there is little romanticism in sweating day and night with temperatures hovering around 30 degrees Celsius (83 Fahrenheit)

and being told there is no short-term solution to the crisis.

Firemen have rescued at least 20 people stuck in lifts in the capital since before Christmas. Some people living in high-rise buildings have temporarily moved into hotels.

Hundreds of thousands of residents of Buenos Aires, with a population of 10 million, live in high-rise blocks.

In one building where the lift does not work, the porter said people carry water and food up to an old couple — he AZ, She ZO — who have been virtually isolated because neither dares use the stairs.

In the poorer districts on the outskirts of Buenos Aires hundreds of people, mainly children, needed medical attention after being affected by dirty water or

rotten food or because of dehydration.

People in exclusive quarters of Buenos Aires exempt from the power cuts earlier in the crisis now look for unorthodox ways to keep the refrigerator going, like using an extension to hook it into a neighbour's plug on a different rota.

Another way to escape the consequences of a cut is to plan a trip to cinema, restaurant or bar in another area to pass the time until power is restored at home.

A trip across the river plate (estuary) to the seaside resorts of Uruguay is another escape route.

For those who can afford it, Argentina's ailing power supply system has failed to cope with the demands of a hot summer in which water levels at hydroelectric dams have fallen sharply due to lack of rain.

Sweden proposes currency liberalisation

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish government Tuesday proposed to dismantle its foreign currency regulations "to fully expose the Swedish market to foreign competition."

The proposal, in the 1989-1990

budget presented to parliament by Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt, was expected to open Swedish banks to foreign competition, reduce interest rates and trim inflation, which is running about twice the European average at more than six per cent.

The proposed budget of 375 billion kronor (\$60.5 billion), which also included a controversial cut for schools, was the first with a budget surplus since 1962.

The deregulation will remove the final barriers for the movement of foreign currency, which the government has been gradually relaxing for several years, and bring Sweden into line with Europe's plan to eliminate currency restrictions by 1992.

But transactions would be monitored through a foreign exchange bank to prevent tax evasion by investing in foreign markets, according to the budget proposal.

Feldt told a news conference he hoped the move would lead to higher efficiency in the Swedish economy, in which the public sector accounts for about 60 per cent of the gross national product.

"In the long term it is deeply worrying that Sweden's economic growth is not higher, despite the fact that the economy is running full and there is a lack of labour," Feldt said.

The growth rate in other Western nations has been about four per cent in the past five years, but it has been 2.5 per cent to three per cent in Sweden, he said, predicting 1.7 per cent growth next year.

It was not clear when the deregulation would take place.

Foreign currency analyst Per Brannhammar of the Nordbank Bank predicted the move would lower interest rates by eliminating the monopoly of Swedish banks on the loan market.

"It will strengthen the Swedish krona and reassure people, especially in Europe, that Sweden is pursuing an international policy," he told the Associated Press.

The move also would reduce inflationary pressure and help Feldt meet his goal of 5.5 per cent inflation next year, he said. The fiscal year begins July 1.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwaiti cabinet approves airport tax

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's cabinet Wednesday approved a two dinar (\$7) tax on passengers leaving from Kuwait airport, a spokesman said. Acting minister of state for cabinet affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan told reporters children younger than 12 would be exempted. The measure requires final approval by the Emir Court.

Islamic banks to finance Sudan

ABU DHABI (R) — Islamic banks have agreed to finance projects to help Sudan, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported Wednesday. The International Islamic Banks Union (IIBU) board decided in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, this week to set up a committee to study the projects. WAM quoted IIBU Deputy Chairman Said Looth as saying: "We will concentrate on farming, manufacturing and communication projects that will yield the highest possible return for Sudan's economy." Looth, chairman of the Dubai Islamic Bank, said. The IIBU groups more than 50 Islamic banks, which charge no interest but allow the lender to take a percentage of profits.

Iraq opens \$416 million highway

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has opened a 130 million dinar (\$416 million) road which forms part of a planned highway linking it with Kuwait in the south and Syria and Jordan in the west. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Wednesday the 106-kilometre road from Baghdad to the western town of Hilla was built by a Yugoslav company, Union Engineering, and opened Tuesday. It is the fourth phase of the 1,200-kilometre project.

Tunisia plans to amend banking laws

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government plans to amend its banking laws to break down the barriers between different types of banks, central bank governor Ismail Khelil said in an interview published Wednesday. In a banking supplement to the government newspaper La Presse, he said: "The aim is to arrive by stages at a more integrated banking system which would allow each institution to choose its own place in the market. Each financial institution will have three windows, one for commercial activity, one for long-term investment and one for offshore activities. They will be able to choose which activity to specialise in." Tunisia now imposes different rules for local banks, development banks and offshore banks. Khelil, a reformer close to President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, gave no indication of when the amended legislation would go to parliament.

'Cost of food aid soars'

ROME (R) — The cost of food aid for the world's poorer nations soared to a record \$136 million in 1988, the World Food Programme (WFP) has revealed. The WFP, a branch of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, blamed higher world market prices, largely due to unfavourable weather conditions in Asia and North America. The cost of the 608,500 tonnes of food for distribution was up 42 per cent on 1987. Some \$108 million worth of the food came from the developing world, under a WFP policy of buying where possible surplus stocks from Third World countries. Zimbabwe was the main African supplier and Thailand the main Asian supplier, the WFP said. Nearly half the amount spent buying food was on behalf of donor countries who channelled bilateral contributions through the programme. The WFP said a favourable harvest and outlook in several African countries, particularly in West Africa, should enable its present food-buying policy to continue this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	77.4	77.8
U.S. dollar	484.0	486.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.5	383.4
Pound Sterling	854.5	858.8	Dutch guilder	233.7	234.9
Deutsche mark	263.7	265.0	Swedish crown	77.7	77.6
Swiss franc	309.4	310.9	Italian lira (for 100)	36.0	36.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	126.1	126.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7740/50	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2008/10	Canadian dollar
	1.8280/90	Deutsche marks
	2.0645/65	Dutch guilders
	1.5575/85	Swiss francs
	38.28/31	Belgian francs
	6.2325/75	French francs
	1339/1340	Italian lire
	126.25/35	Japanese yen
	6.2575/2625	Swedish crowns
	6.6675/6725	Norwegian crowns
	7.0700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	402.90/403.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed lower as overseas interest waned and metals weakened after four consecutive days of gains. The All Ordinaries fell 3.2 to 1,498.7.

TOKYO — Share prices rose to a record close for the third consecutive day on continued optimism at the start of a new imperial era, brokers said. The Nikkei index rose 136.94 points to 31,143.45.

HONG KONG — Prices rose sharply on the U.S. dollar's gain pushing Hong Kong stocks to their third successive post-crash high. The Hang Seng index rose 40.14 points to 2,872.52.

SINGAPORE — Share prices recovered from early losses to end generally higher after active trading. The Straits Times industrial index, which lost 1.45 points at midday, ended 2.09 points higher at 1,085.59.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower on scattered profit-taking after the market opened steady. Associated Cement fell 10 rupees to 329.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mostly firmer in moderate dealings that saw the spotlight shift to second-tier shares. The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,353.42, 7.51 points above the previous close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed little changed despite a lower opening after major Swiss banks raised their three deposit rates for all maturities by 1/4 per cent. The All Share Swiss index rose 0.9 point to 964.6.

PARIS — French share prices reversed the firmer trend seen in early trade and were lower at midday on a mixture of profit-taking and concern over planned labour unrest by house employees. The 30-share Coteur indicator was down 0.65 per cent.

LONDON — Shares were rallying from their low to end mixed but steady as Wall Street struggled to rise after the Dow Jones 2,200 level once again. By 1600 GMT the FTSE 100 was 0.9 point off at 1835.

NEW YORK — Wall Street blue chips were again close to the 2,200 level but retreated under heavy resistance in morning trading. The Dow was up four at 2197.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Cash beats McEnroe in exhibition

ADELAIDE (AP) — Australian Pat Cash, unleashing a mixture of brilliance and blunder, beat long-time idol John McEnroe in straight sets in the opening match of the Rio international tennis challenge at Adelaide's Memorial drive courts Wednesday. Cash accounted for the 29-year-old American 7-6, 6-4 in the exhibition event, which several big name players are using as a warm-up for the Australian Open in Melbourne next week.

Drugs committee tackles broad issues

TORONTO (AP) — Months of hearings into the use of drugs by amateur athletes prompted by the Olympic scandal involving Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson start Wednesday. The federal government appointed a commission with sweeping powers to investigate Canadian athletes after Johnson was stripped of his gold medal for testing positive for anabolic steroids at the summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Ontario associate chief justice Charles Dubin, the commission's head, said in November that the investigation would be much more than a review of what was involved in Johnson's world-record, 9.79 second, 100-metre race on Sept. 24. "I think it also important to consider whether there are pressures being placed on our young men and women athletes to tempt them to cheat," Dubin said. "Have we, as Canadians, lost track of what athletic competition is all about?"

Saudi soccer players start anti-drugs campaign

RIYADH (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Soccer Federation announced Tuesday that its players henceforth would sport T-shirts emblazoned with the words "no to drugs." Saudi Arabia, at the instructions of King Fahd, has instituted a firm anti-drug campaign that includes the death penalty for drug smugglers and traffickers. The federation's announcement said that the shirts will first appear at the finals in the upcoming games of the "cup of the custodian of the two holy shrines," King Fahd's official title. The decision was made at a meeting of the federation board, chaired by Prince Faisal Bin Fahd, Secretary-General for Youth Welfare and the son of the Saudi monarch. It was adopted "out of conviction of the menace of this plague and as a contribution to the anti-drug campaign," the announcement said.

African player of the year disappears

BRUSSELS (R) — Zambian Kalusha Bwalya, African footballer of the year for 1988, failed to report back to his Belgian first division soccer club Cercle Bruges after playing in a World Cup qualifier in Morocco. A club official, who declined to be named, said Wednesday that left-winger Kalusha was expected to report back on Monday, one day after the match which Zambia lost 1-0. "We don't know where he is," the official said. "We just cannot tolerate it." He said it was too soon to say if Kalusha would be disciplined. Kalusha, 25, who shot to fame when he scored three goals for Zambia against Italy in the Seoul Olympics, was due to play for Cercle Bruges in an indoor tournament in Ghent, Belgium, starting Wednesday.

'Wonderskates' are tested

OSLO (AP) — Norwegian speedskating coach and an engineer have invented new skates which they claim will revolutionize sports on ice.

Finn Halvorsen, Norway's former national speedskating coach, and Jan Bratland, an engineer, have tested and patented strong, aerodynamic but extra-light skates for ice hockey and speedskating. After posting Oslo's afternoon newspaper, reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said that the new skates — the result of some 8,000 hours of work over four years — could cut a half-second from a speedskater's time in the 500 metres and up to 10 seconds in a 10,000-metre event.

The paper gave no evidence to support the claims. Halvorsen and Bratland were unavailable for comment.

The inventors told the newspaper that the new skates — one

type for ice hockey, another for speedskating — are 30 to 50 per cent lighter than current models. The skates are made of a composite material and cast virtually in a single piece, according to the report.

Halvorsen has tested the skates in secret sessions in the middle of the night at Oslo's Valle Hovin artificial ice rink. They have also been tested at a technological institute in Trondheim, the report said.

Jan Wangaard, a former national sailboard champion who is now an industrial designer, helped the inventors with the design of the new skates. Orthopedist Dag Joerstad helped in developing the skates' special sole and ankle support, the report said.

Two state institutions supporting technical research and inventors helped pay for the project with nearly \$20,000.

U.K. debates steroids law

LONDON (AP) — A bill that would impose a criminal penalty on anyone caught taking or supplying anabolic steroids without a prescription was introduced in Britain's House of Commons Tuesday.

The bill would add steroids to a list of controlled substances covered by the 1971 misuse of drugs act, making them illegal for the first time in Britain. Though they are not allowed by most sports organisations, steroids are legal in Britain and most other coun-

tries. "The events of last summer only serve to underline the necessity for government action to tackle drug abuse in sport," said Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Party's expert on sports and the sponsor of the bill, referring to drug scandals at the Seoul Olympics.

"I hope ministers understand that the physical health of athletes will be at risk so long as anabolic steroids remain available," Campbell said.

U.S. soccer team beats Argentina

ROTTERDAM (AP) — The United States upset Argentina 3-1 and Brazil overpowered Paraguay 5-1 in the opening group 2 matches of the second round of the inaugural indoor world championship Tuesday.

In group 1 games, Belgium beat Italy 5-1 and the Netherlands and Hungary drew 3-3 in their opening matches.

The United States, coming back with three goals in the second half, scored the upset of the tournament against favoured Argentina.

"It is not surprising to me but it is surprising a lot of people here," said coach John Kowalski.

The South Americans dominated the first half, relying on their better skills and cooler nerves when they exploited slack marking to score the first goal through Juan Alvarez.

But the physically superior U.S. team dominated the second half. Pressure increased and paid off when a couple of fine shots from Peter Vermes put them ahead. Argentina neglected defence from then onwards allowing Juli Vee more than time enough to line up a third goal.

Brazil took a firm option on the semifinals, blasting pre-tournament favourite Paraguay 5-1, who never had a chance. Benatti, Marquinhos and Atila put the match beyond doubt by half-time.

Paraguay, which had provided the most attractive soccer during the first round of the 16-team event, scored its only goal through Adolfo Jara Heyn.

But Brazil further improved on its goal aggregate with goals by Neimar and Adilio.

The winner of each group plays the runner-up of the other group Saturday. The semifinals and Sunday's final will both be at the 7,000-capacity Ahoy Hall here. Hungary trailed 2-0 after less than a minute but kept their cool afterwards and with classy combination play came back to draw 3-3.

Hungary was caught cold by the Dutch, who scored on their opening move through Andre Bakker and half a minute later Captain Vic Hermans punished a blunder by the goalie with a second goal. "Victory was there for the taking," said Dutch coach Ron Groenewoud. But they didn't.

Hungary held on. Trailing 3-1 all midway in the second half, they produced their best combination moves to dislodge a panicky Dutch defence and earn a late draw.

Belgium, meanwhile, scored big against Italy to take the lead in the European group.

The tournament began with 16 nations from across the world on Jan. 5, but the traditional soccer powers from Europe and South America have dominated play, allowing only the United States

Navratilova hits top form

SYDNEY (AP) — World No. 2 Martina Navratilova beat Hungarian Andrea Temesvari 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday in a second-round match at the \$350,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships.

Navratilova, the top seed, said she was pleased to win her first tournament match since the Virginia Slims championships in New York last November. Each of the top eight women's seeds received byes through the first round.

"I'm a little behind in my preparation... because I sprained my ankle playing tennis last week. That put me back four days and I have also had a cold since I arrived here," Navratilova said.

A three-time winner of the New South Wales tournament, Navratilova will face South African Dinky Van Rensburg on Sydney's White City courts Thursday.

Temesvari, a former top 10 representative, was playing her second match after being sidelined for almost two years through injury.

The women's event is being run in conjunction with a 32-draw Nabisco Grand Prix mens event. Navratilova was one of six women's seeds to win



Martina Navratilova

Wednesday. Defending champion and second seed, Pam Shriver was the first player into the quarterfinals Wednesday with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Japan's Etsuko Inoue.

Ninth-seeded Hana Mandlikova scored the second victory of her comeback to move into the third round by beating France's Nathalie Herremann 6-3, 6-3 and 16th-seeded Terry Phelps of the United States beat sixth-seeded

Italian Rafsella Reggi, 6-3, 7-5. American Mary Joe Fernandez, 17, lived up to her fourth seeding by downing tough New Zealander Belinda Cordwell 6-3, 6-0.

In other second-round matches, No. 5 seed Patty Fendick of the United States, beat Czechoslovakia's Petra Langrova 6-2, 6-3 and South Africa's Dinky Van Rensburg beat American Ann Henricksson, a past finalist, 7-5, 6-3.

Eleventh-seeded Australian Judith Wiesner beat Australian Anne Minter, the seventh seed, 7-5, 6-3.

In men's second-round matches, sixth-seeded Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa beat Soviet player Alexander Volkov 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-3) Wednesday.

Two qualifiers upset higher ranked opponents in second round matches. Czechoslovak Libor Nemecsek, ranked 333 in the world, dunted eighth-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 3-6, 6-1, 6-1. Olivier Delaire of France, playing his sixth Grand Prix event, beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg, 18, 7-6 (10-8), 6-2.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

Soviets equal NHL teams

BUFFALO (R) — When Ken Priestley of the Sabres scored a sudden death overtime goal Monday to give Buffalo a 6-5 win over the Soviet Union's central Red Army, the super series of ice hockey ended in a dead heat.

The Red Army, perennial Soviet national league champions, were 4-2-1 and Soviet league runners-up Dynamo Riga were 3-4-1 in their tour against National Hockey League (NHL) teams for a total of six wins for hosts and visitors alike and two draws.

R Alan Eagleson, executive director of the NHL Players Association, said: "I stood next to the Buffalo Sabres' bench and coach Ted Sator Monday night and they were playing it seriously, like a Stanley Cup playoff game."

Eagleson said the level of play in the series was uneven, "some other teams treated it as an exhibition. The Los Angeles Kings brought up an entire line from the minor leagues for the game, so that in some games there was

great intensity and in others the games were treated as exhibitions," he said.

Eagleson, who also negotiates all international hockey agreements for the NHL, said plans were set for a 21-game tour by our Soviet club teams next season that would involve all 21 NHL teams but would not count in league standings.

Toronto Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard and the Philadelphia Flyers boss Jay Snider have insisted they would not allow the Soviets to play in their buildings, but Eagleson had an answer for that.

"We will allow them to play in any other arena they (Ballard and Snider) choose," said Eagleson. "For example, Toronto could rent the Hamilton arena in Hamilton, Ontario, but they must guarantee an average attendance equal to what the normal average attendance is for the particular team."

This year's super series drew an average of 13,215.

Paris-Dakar Standings

PARIS (R) — Japanese driver Kei Shinozuka won the 12th timed section of the Paris-Dakar motor rally Tuesday on one of the course's toughest sections, 501 km in Guinea from Siguir to Mamou. Britain's Gary Tolman and Jan Van Tuyl were forced out of the rally when their Range Rover caught fire 65 km from the Malian capital of Bamako where the rally field had spent the night.

1. Vatanen/Berglund twenty one hours 45 minutes one second
2. Ickx/Tarin seven minutes 14 seconds behind
3. Tambay/Lemoyne 3:54:01 behind
4. Frequentin/Fenouil 5:50:08 behind
5. K. Tijsterman/M. Tijsterman 6:00:18 behind
6. J. Fontanay/B. Musmar (France) Mitsubishi 6:54:55 behind
7. K. Shinozuka/H. Magne (Japan/France) Mitsubishi 7:04:50 behind
8. Wamburgue/Guchonac 9:10:55 behind
9. Gabreau/Gabbay 14:08:47 behind
10. Pescarolo/Fourticq 22:11:17 behind

Bengals' quarterback voted award

NEW YORK (AP) — Quarterback Boomer Esiason, who has led the Cincinnati Bengals to this year's Super Bowl, was named the National Football League's most valuable player by the Professional Football Writers Association Tuesday.

Esiason received 33 per cent of the writers' vote. San Francisco 49ers running back Roger Craig was runner-up with 19 per cent. Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham was third with 15 per cent, followed by linebacker Mike Singletary of the Chicago Bears with 11 per cent.

Esiason earlier was named the MVP by the Associated Press, based on a vote by a panel of sport writers and broadcasters who cover NFL games.

"It should be changed to the most valuable team trophy," Esiason said after being given the Schick MVP trophy at a luncheon.

"My teammates are the most valuable teammates because without the running of Ickey, James Brooks and Stanley Wilson and the blocking of Munoz, Montoya, Kozerski, Walter and Blados and the receiving of Collinsworth, Brown, McGee and Holman, I wouldn't be standing here."

Esiason was not surprised that the San Francisco 49ers were 7-point favourites for the Super Bowl on Jan. 22.

"It always seems we have to prove ourselves, especially me," Esiason said. "I'm looking forward to a great challenge. And maybe it will be the incentive and motivation we need to really get up for this game and win."

Esiason said betting with the Bengals had proven profitable for their backers.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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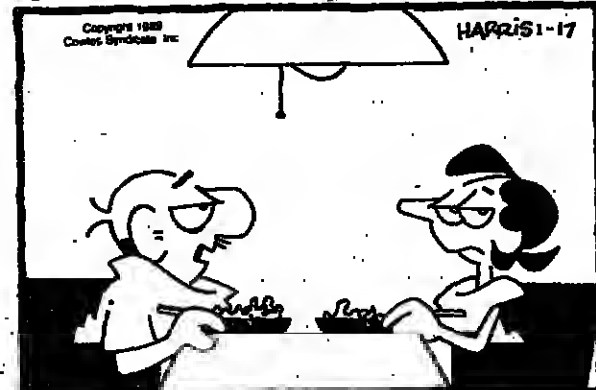
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q63 ♥ 1083 ♦ 42 ♣ Q1954
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 NT 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J9852 ♥ 102 ♦ Q103 ♣ A42
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J9852 ♥ 102 ♦ Q103 ♣ A42
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J9852 ♥ 102 ♦ Q103 ♣ A42
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A76 ♥ A10762 ♦ K10854 ♣ Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A76 ♥ A10762 ♦ K10854 ♣ Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Look for answers on Monday.



Michael Mitzlaff and Peter Wulff won no less than three 60 percent scores for their winning performance in the free display at the 33rd World Roller Skating Championships recently. Their brilliance earned them the title of "The Torville and Dean" of the roller-skating world.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I don't really care about my weight. I just diet so I have a good excuse for being grouchy."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAFLE

LOMOB

TRUFUE

ENGOUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HANDY AMUSE YELLOW DISCUS
Answer: What the highway maintenance man was told to do—MEND HIS "WAY"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS

- 1 Monitor
- 5 Organization
- 10 Society girls
- 14 Ellipse
- 15 Sp. city
- 18 Skater's feat
- 17 Hange on
- 19 Walt
- 20 music abbr.
- 21 Hog peanut
- 22 One by one
- 24 City of opera
- 25 Goes back on
- 26 Uses oaks
- 29 Procession
- 30 Palmer of golf
- 31 Europeans
- 32 Rebuke
- 33 Big city chap
- 35 Lost dog
- 37 Cooler
- 38 Adherent: suff.
- 39 "Lumber" range
- 40 Shrewy fish
- 41 Bear on
- 42 Most vile
- 44 Teaches
- 45 Money
- 47 Boxed
- 48 Dies —
- 49 Calendar abbr.
- 52 Gate receipts
- 53 Breaks in
- 54 Finished
- 57 Selfish
- 59 Brittle
- 59 Monster lake
- 60 Eliminates
- 61 Approach

DOWN

- 1 Slangy negative
- 2 Sign
- 3 Raised railways
- 5 Evergreen
- 6 shrubs
- 8 Equine
- 7 Wear
- 8 Cauchy tree
- 9 Pedestrian
- 10 Became
- 11 Lay it on
- 12 Beauty
- 13 Weavers' reads
- 16 Summon
- 18 North
- 23 Chair and
- 24 Ball
- 25 Ballet movement
- 26 — eyes
- 27 In — covered
- 28 by received
- 29 Ventures on
- 31 RSI and
- 32 ERA
- 33 Affliction
- 34 Urban lot
- 35 "plan"
- 36 Understudies
- 37 Gap
- 38 "he will not utter"
- 40 Old Ger. coin
- 42 Buffed patrons
- 43 Anna
- 44 Follow
- 45 Crossbeam
- 46 — "Lovely Day Today"
- 49 Grief —
- 50 — bog
- 51 Damp
- 54 Presently
- 55 MR. abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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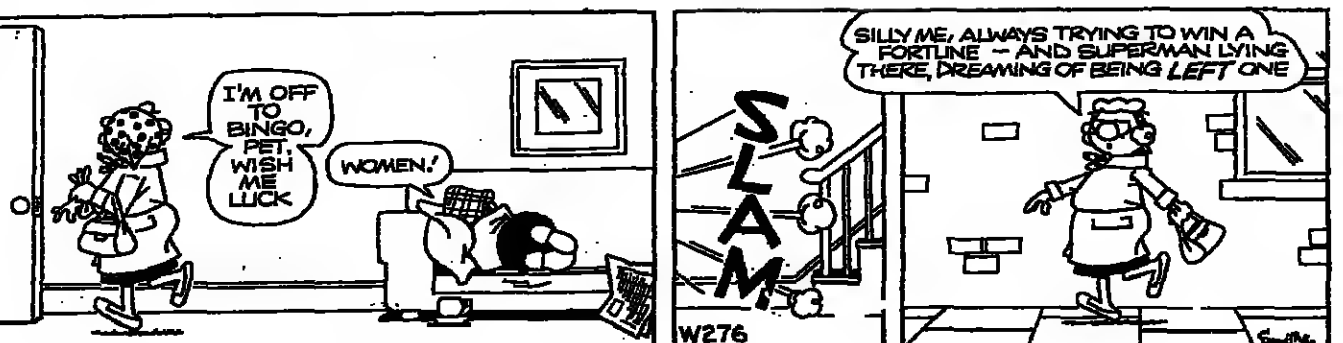
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Gorbachev takes new step towards electoral process

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has embarked on the latest step in transforming the country's parliamentary system amid public doubts over whether the overhaul will amount to fundamental change.

Gorbachev told the Communist Party's central committee Tuesday the elections faced difficulties, including "group egoism, ambition and political careerism."

He proposed a list of 100 party candidates to be elected to the revamped national parliament in March.

They will be formally elected at an expanded central commission meeting to the 100 seats set aside for the party in the new 2,250-member parliament, which Gorbachev hopes will boost popular involvement in politics.

Two-thirds of the new parliament — the congress of people's deputies — will be elected March 26 in national elections contested by more than one candidate a seat.

The remainder of the seats are set aside for the Communist Party and organisations ranging from the academy of sciences, journalists, composers and artists' unions to sports and stamp collecting clubs.

Doubts about the system have been publicly expressed — particularly the allocation of seats to public groups. Some interest groups have complained at being left out of the allocation process.

An opinion conducted by the communist youth news paper Komsomolskaya Pravda showed 65.5 per cent of respondents opposed to the idea.

Intellectuals have also criticised the new parliament's two-chamber structure, saying it will dilute still further the choice of the voter.

Under laws passed last month, the congress will elect a 422-member chamber known as the Supreme Soviet — also the name of the old parliament.

The new Supreme Soviet will meet for seven or eight months a year, instead of the four to six-day sessions of the old parliament

whose mandate extended little beyond rubber-stamping party decisions.

TASS said Tuesday that campaigning for the elected part of the parliament was proceeding amid spirited debate.

It said two Moscow enterprises had nominated their directors as candidates but stressed: "this does not at all mean, though that candidates are being nominated in the old way, with people merely endorsing whoever was proposed to them."

The agency said former Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin was among those whose nomination was unsuccessfully proposed at a Moscow car plant.

Yeltsin was dropped from his Moscow post in November 1987 and from his seat in the Politburo last February after criticising the pace of Gorbachev's reforms as too slow.

In a speech delivered before the decision, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said 312 names remaining from tens of thousands submitted had gone to the ruling 12-member Politburo, and it reduced the list to 100 before sending it to the central committee.

No change has been made in the language of the new election law, but the party's example "will set the standard" and other organisations will be less likely to offer real choices, said a Western diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity.

Multiple candidates already have been nominated in some areas. TASS, the official news agency, said 26 candidates were chosen in 19 Moscow districts.

Gorbachev, who has promised repeatedly that the elections will be part of his "democratisation" of the Soviet Union, offered a draft political platform for the party and suggested other organisations would offer their own.

"The Soviet people are entitled to know the objectives and tasks formulated by the party for the immediate future, and the platform it takes to elections," TASS quoted Gorbachev as saying. The document was not released Tuesday.

"We should proceed from the premise that the other social organisations will come to the elections with their own campaign documents," and individual candidates can also offer their views, Gorbachev said.

Montenegrin state leaders resign

BELGRADE (R) — State and Communist Party leaders in Yugoslavia's southern republic of Montenegro resigned Wednesday as about 50,000 demonstrators laid siege to government buildings, the Tanjug news agency said.

Tanjug said the Montenegro state presidency tendered its collective resignation and it was expected to be confirmed by regional parliament Friday.

Regional party leaders also submitted their resignations which were expected to be approved at a central committee meeting later Wednesday.

The resignations came after two days of student and worker protests in Montenegro's capital Titograd, in which 50,000 demonstrators demanded sacking of the entire leadership, blamed for abuse of power and mismanagement of the economy.

Montenegrin workers, hit by 250 per cent inflation and falling living standards, called for the sacking of their leaders last October but their protests were crushed by riot police.

Yugoslavia's worsening economic and political crisis, marked by demonstrations across the country, led to the toppling of Prime Minister Branko Mitkovic's government in December.

The text of both resignations

was read to demonstrators in Titograd by Bozidar Tadic, vice-president of the Montenegrin parliament. He pleaded with demonstrators to return to work, saying all their demands had been met.

He said the leadership decided to resign "because of the threat of the worsening security situation."

The protest in Titograd, 600 kilometres south of Belgrade, was led by thousands of local metal workers who last October staged a similar protest which was crushed by riot police.

Montenegro, with a population of only 600,000 people live

below the poverty level, according to official data.

The average monthly wage is less than \$80 and about 25 per cent of the work force is unemployed.

The protesters had also demanded the sacking of Vidoje Zarkovic and Marko Orlandic, representing Montenegro in the Yugoslav Communist Party Politburo, and of Veselin Djuranovic, member of the Yugoslav State Presidency.

In a similar coup, workers toppled the regional leadership in Vojvodina province, a part of Serbia, last October, setting a precedent for later unrest in Montenegro.



Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto to implement Islamic law

NICOSIA (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, making a pilgrimage to Mecca, was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Wednesday as saying Pakistan was determined to implement the principles of Islamic law.

Bhutto, 35, the first woman prime minister in the Muslim world, told reporters: "We will abrogate any law contradicting the Koran or the prophet's sunna."

"We have also announced that Friday is a holiday. We distribute free copies of the Koran in Arabic," she said in Jeddah Tuesday night before travelling to Mecca and Medina.

"We have made it easier for everyone to make the pilgrimage, have defended just Islamic issues and have developed strong relations with Islamic countries."

"We have come to the holy land to present our thanks to Almighty God and call on him to give us his guidance and our country his care," the SPA report in Arabic quoted her as saying.

Pakistani embassy officials have said the two-day visit, Bhutto's first trip abroad as prime minister, is purely private and religious but diplomats expect her to visit Saudi Arabia's eastern province to meet King Fahd.

Pakistan traditionally has very close ties with the kingdom, where hundreds of thousands of its workers are employed. The country has been closely involved in training and supporting Saudi Arabia's armed forces.

Press conference

Bhutto also said Tuesday that the stability, national unity and economic growth of her country are her priorities.

At a press conference, Bhutto emphasised strengthening relations with India as opening the doors for peace in the region. But she said Pakistan would remain steadfast in its policy of supporting the Afghan rebels fighting the Moscow-backed government in Afghanistan.

She expressed optimism of a better future relationship between Pakistan and India the two countries following three major pacts signed between the two countries after a recent summit conference.

Burmese students forcibly repatriated

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand has forcibly repatriated Burmese students to their homeland, subjecting them to possible detention and harsh treatment by Burma's military government, Amnesty International charged.

The London-based human rights organisation said Tuesday that Thailand, on Jan. 6 forcibly returned 22 students who had fled neighbouring Burma after a bloody military coup Sept. 18.

In a statement telexed to news agencies in Bangkok Wednesday, amnesty said it feared the 22 and other students previously repatriated by Thailand may have been detained and abused by security personnel in Burma.

Thai authorities have denied forcing any students back and the Burmese government claims they are treated well on their return.

Amnesty International said its concern was based "on increasing evidence that many political prisoners arrested for having been actively involved in the March-September uprising have been held incommunicado without charge or trial since their arrest and that some of them have been subjected to torture or other forms of severe treatment."

The statement said the group of 22 students who were forcibly repatriated included Sai Myon Wyn Tun and Kyai Moe, both 23, who had taken leading roles in the August and September demonstrations for democracy.

It said the 22 were part of a group of 36 students of the Shan ethnic minority whom Thai police rounded up two weeks ago in Mae Hong Son province bordering Burma.

Action Directe says Besse was an agent

PARIS (R) — A woman revolutionary accused of killing Renault car chief Georges Besse in 1986 said Tuesday he had been targeted for death because he waged an anti-worker, anti-union policy.

"Besse was the complete technocrat, and he completely ignored the consequences of his decisions on thousands and thousands of workers and their families," Action Directe urban guerrilla group leader Joelle Aubron told a Paris court.

"The consequences have caught up with him — he's dead," she said in an hour-long statement at the start of the second day of her trial.

Aubron, 28, stands accused with fellow revolutionary Nathalie Menigon of shooting dead

Besse at point-blank range as he returned to his Paris home in November 1986.

Jean-Marc Rouillan, founder of Action Directe, and Georges Cipriani are charged with acting as accomplices. The four, already serving 10-year sentences for criminal conspiracy, face life sentences if convicted.

The four, expelled from the courtroom Monday after insulting politicians called to give evidence, stalked out of the dock after Aubron's statement and were escorted back to their cells. The trial was adjourned until Wednesday.

As allowed under French law, their lawyers have not entered a plea of either guilty or not guilty.

Sino-Soviet summit not threatened by doubts on Afghan pullout

PEKING (R) — Sino-Soviet détente and planning for a summit will proceed despite Moscow's warnings that its troops may stay in Afghanistan past their Feb. 15 pullout deadline, diplomats said Wednesday.

Peking is unlikely to postpone Mikhail Gorbachev's expected visit in the first half of this year even if the Soviet Union fails to meet the terms of the Geneva peace accords on Afghanistan, they said.

China used to cite the occupation of Afghanistan, Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea and

Soviet troops on its border as the "three obstacles" to better ties with Moscow. But the start of the Afghanistan pullout rapidly thawed the diplomatic ice.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is due to visit Peking next month and pave the way for a trip by Gorbachev, widely predicted for April or May.

"The impetus for improved relations has been built up. It would take a second Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to disrupt it now," said one Western diplomat.

Moscow's ambassador to

Afghanistan Yuli Vorontsov said Tuesday the Soviet Union might not fulfil last April's U.N.-mediated accords on time, after rebel leaders refused to accept any of Kabul's current communist leaders in a future government.

"China and several other countries view this as only a bargaining ploy by Moscow to put pressure on the guerrillas and perhaps win a few concessions. It's not a big chance of intention," another diplomat said.

Peking's official spokesmen have recently expressed concern that Moscow follows the letter of

the peace agreement, but have not returned to the hostile language that marked their past criticisms of Soviet policies, he added.

China Saturday gave rare praise to the Soviet Union's ally Vietnam, calling its offer to withdraw from Kampuchea by September a "step forward."

Chinese leaders in 1988 described Kampuchea as the most important of the "three obstacles" in relations with Moscow, apparently taking precedence over the Afghanistan issue.



GREENPEACE CLASHES WITH THE FRENCH — French construction workers dragging away Greenpeace environmental activists, who had blocked work on an airstrip at Dumont d'Urville, Adèle Coast, in Antarctica. A Greenpeace spokesman asserted that 15 persons had been injured, none seriously, in the "melee."

Greenpeace says that the airstrip threatens the local penguins.

Thailand, Vietnam bury hatchet

HANOI (R) — Thailand and Vietnam declared an end to a decade of mutual recriminations Wednesday and promised to cooperate in the fast-moving international diplomacy to settle the conflict in Kampuchea.

Beaming Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told a news conference after two days of talks with Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila: "He is my elder brother. We have had very useful talks."

Their joint press statement said: "We will work together towards achieving peace in Kampuchea."

Siddhi said Thailand would be "willing to take part in the reconstruction of Vietnam once the Kampuchea issue has been settled."

Referring to a Vietnamese prop-

osal to pull out all its forces from Kampuchea by September if a political solution is reached, he said: "I think after September everything will be alright," in bilateral relations.

No new agreements of substance were announced although Siddhi suggested that the two involved superpowers, the Soviet Union and China, could play an early role in direct international negotiations towards a settlement.

The impetus for the present flurry of diplomacy on Kampuchea came from a meeting in Moscow last month between the Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers and the two countries are preparing for a summit later this year.

Moscow is Vietnam's main backer and Peking has supported

the Khmer Rouge and other guerrilla groups operating from camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border to overthrow the communist Phnom Penh government installed after Vietnam's 1978 invasion.

Western diplomats here said pressure was growing for direct talks between China and Vietnam, whose hostility in the 1970s was a key factor in creating the Kampuchea problem and whose reconciliation is crucial for lasting stability in South-East Asia.

Apart from its desire to see the Kampuchea conflict end, Thailand has also been encouraged to seek better ties with Vietnam for commercial reasons.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan has declared a policy of turning Indochina's battlefields into marketplaces.

Mexican unionists arrested, thousands of workers strike

MEXICO (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of striking workers crippled refinery operations in Mexico's crucial oil industry to protest the arrest of their union chief and 17 other union leaders after a gun battle with soldiers Tuesday.

A presidential source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the raid was conducted because "we had to move to clean up things."

Authorities arrested the leader of Mexico's oil workers union, causing a walkout by refinery workers and a standoff between the new government and the country's most powerful labour group.

Work stoppages were reported at seven oil refineries across the country as union leaders threatened to shut the country's important oil industry down in protest over the arrest.

Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, known as "la quina," was arrested along with 14 other union officials in a raid in the northwestern city Ciudad Madero, the federal attorney general's office said.

The arrests marked an apparent move by the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, which took office only six weeks ago, to root out union

corruption and end Hernandez Galicia's control over the country's oil fields and refineries.

Three other union officials, including former Secretary General Jose Sosa Martinez, were detained in Mexico City.

Mexico, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, receives about a third of its export income from crude sales, about half of which go to the United States.

The attorney general's office said leaders of the union, widely seen as riddled by corruption, were arrested on charges of smuggling and stockpiling high calibre weapons.

Soldiers led by federal agents raided Hernandez Galicia's home and blew his front door down with a bazooka, the official Notimex news agency said.

Inside authorities found 20 cases holding about 200 Uzi machine guns and 30,000 cartridges of ammunition along with 40 other guns, the attorney general's office said.

It said federal agent Antonio Zamora was killed in a shootout with men inside the house and that the arrested union leaders would also be charged with murder.

Hernandez Galicia is a former secretary general of the oil work-

ers union and widely perceived as the man who controls the union's vast resources.

Opposition groups have charged the union, which boasts an estimated 110,000 members, with amassing power and wealth through the sale of posts in the state oil firm Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) and other schemes.

Past governments, however, have maintained close ties with the union, which was ensured a stable work force.

Ramon Alvarez Jimenez, leader of oil workers in the gulf of Mexico state of Veracruz, said that in less than 72 hours the country's industry would be paralysed by a lack of fuel.

Pemex spokesman Francisco Casanova, however, said the firm would assure the supply of petrol across the country.

He said two refineries were shut down Tuesday by work stoppages while five others were partially closed.

The country's largest labour organisation, the traditionally pro-government Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), which groups 11,000 unions and three million workers, strongly criticised the arrests, saying they threatened to "lead to anarchy and reactionary violence."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

90 reported drowned in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — About 90 people drowned on their way to a funeral when their boat broke up in a river in Pakistan's Punjab province, the official APP news agency said Wednesday. Officials said only 35 of the 125 people aboard escaped by swimming to the banks of the Ravi in Punjab's Sahiwal district after the vessel overturned Tuesday, the agency reported. The boat hit a piece of iron laid across the river to make a temporary bridge, overturned and broke into pieces, APP said. The passengers were going to a relative's funeral. State-run television had said earlier that more than 20 people had drowned in the incident.

1 killed, 20 injured in Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG (AP) — Bombs rocked the southern port city of Chittagong, killing one person and injuring 20 Tuesday during protests against a meeting of fundamentalist Muslims, police said. An eight-hour-long strike in Chittagong, a city of three million, about 200 kilometres southeast of the capital Dhaka, was called to protest the Muslim fundamentalist meeting called to interpret the "Koran," the Muslim holy book. The meeting, sponsored by the Muslim Jamaat-Islami Party, was initially banned, but allowed to go on after city authorities decided the ban would offend Muslims, police said. A bomb that exploded in the city centre killed a 20-year-old man and injured 15 others. At least three of those injured were hospitalised, police said.

24 die in Indian cold wave

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least six people died Tuesday in a cold wave that swept northern India on what the meteorological office said was the coldest day of the season, news agencies said. A

total of 24 people now have died in the week-long cold spell that hit the capital and the northern states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India news agency said. According to the meteorological office, the present cold wave will last another three days. United News of India, another news agency, said, in a country identified more with the heat of the long summers, the period from December through February each year, relatively mild by western winter standards, brings a renewed challenge to millions of poor people who are without adequate food, clothing, or shelter. The ground chill factor and the lack of central heating adds to the misery of the average resident of North India, United News of India said.

Hyundai workers protest assault

SEOUL (AP) — Thousands of workers demonstrated Wednesday at South Korea's largest shipyard, which a strike has closed, to protest management's involvement in an assault on leaders of their labour union. Police said 10 workers were arrested for their alleged roles in the attack Sunday near the Ulsan shipyard in which about a dozen union organisers were hospitalised with broken arms and legs and cuts. About 3,000 workers employed at Hyundai heavy industries, South Korea's largest shipyard, demonstrated at the shipyard and outside a nearby police station where the arrested workers were being questioned. Sunday, about 100 workers carrying sticks and steel pipes had attacked hardline union leaders who were meeting to work out a strategy for ending a labour dispute at the shipyard. A police investigation revealed that an executive of the Hyundai group's planning department in Seoul ordered the attack, but he has not yet been arrested, authorities said. The shipyard, with a workforce of 18,000, has been closed since Dec. 23, when most workers went on strike demanding higher pay.

COLUMN

Chimps with AIDS get pension plan

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A biomedical foundation is establishing a pension plan for 81 AIDS-infected chimpanzees. The Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research plans to invest more than \$1.77 million over the next 10 years into chimpanzee retirement accounts that are expected to grow into \$2.9 million through the year 2026, officials said. "We always have had a moral obligation to take care of the animals that we use, but we can have the best intentions in the world, but if we don't have the money, there is little that we can do for them," said John Speck, controller of the biomedical foundation. The fund will help in their care and is sure to be enough to buy bunches of bananas and lots of apples, cucumbers, celery and watermelon over the next 40 years for the chimpanzees, who cannot be used for other research after being exposed to AIDS. But Roger Fouts, a psychology professor at central Washington university in Ellensburg who has studied chimpanzees for 20 years, said the biomedical foundation's humanitarian attempt is admirable, but it might not be enough.

270 movies eligible for Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A record 270 movies are eligible for Academy Award consideration, and will be listed in a pamphlet mailed next week with Oscar nominations ballots, it was announced Tuesday. There were 263 contenders for Oscar consideration last year. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will announce 1988 Oscar nominees in 21 categories Feb. 15, and trophies will be presented March 29 during the 61st annual ceremonies. Feature-length motion pictures are eligible for 1988 Oscars if they were publicly exhibited in 35mm or larger format for at least seven days in a Los Angeles-area theatre during the calendar year, the academy said. Separate consideration is given to films competing for the foreign language film Oscar. Foreign film contenders must have been released in the country of origin between Nov. 1, 1987, and Oct. 31, 1988.

\$60 million face lift

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Sheraton palace hotel, a home away from home for six presidents and armies of celebrities since 1874, has closed for the first time since the great earthquake of 1906 for a \$60-million 18-month renovation. The quake, which destroyed much of the city, triggered a fire which gutted the original, seven-story hotel. But 4-metre-thick brick walls saved the shell and it was rebuilt to its current nine stories and reopened Dec. 16, 1909, with other alterations in 1915, 1919 and 1925. Tenor Enrico Caruso was a guest as the tremor struck. He was tossed from his bed and vowed, "I will never set foot in San Francisco again." "Actually, the earthquake only destroyed 8 per cent of the structure," said Jim Kilroy, the hotel's director of marketing. "The fire did the rest." President Woodrow Wilson gave his famous League of Nations speech there, and the Garden Court held the official banquet honouring the opening session of the United Nations. King David Kalakaua of Hawaii, the last of the island's monarchs, died at the Palace on Jan. 20, 1891.

Love affair tale wins top prize

LONDON (AP) — David Lodge, a retired university professor of English, was awarded Britain's richest prize for fiction Tuesday for his novel, "Nice Work." Lodge, who will be 53 this month, won the Sunday Express Book of the Year Award, worth \$35,200 against five other novels which included "The Captain and the Enemy" by Britain's novelist emeritus, Graham Greene. "Nice Work" describes a topical and funny love affair between a 45-year-old businessman in the English Midlands and a 32-year-old lecturer who is a virulent feminist and personifies almost everything he hates. Novelist Kingsley Amis, heading a five-judge panel, announced at London's Cafe Royal that their final choice was the most stylish, literate, well-written and above all readable work of fiction published in Britain in 1988. "It's a particular pleasure that Kingsley Amis was chairman of the judges because his books influenced me when I was a young writer, and also that I was competing against Graham Greene whom I revere above all